

10-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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.



Andrew S. '10 and Lucas S. '10 spent two weeks in Nicaragua with Food for the Hungry this summer.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Agapé Center for Service and Learning develops, administers, resources, and coordinates programs of service-learning, community service, and mission, contributing to the mission of Messiah College to “educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character, and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.”

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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, which we support, or participate in existing programs such as:

- International service and mission trips over spring and summer breaks.
- Stateside service trips over fall, January term and spring breaks.
- World Christian Fellowship (WCF), a student group dedicated to increasing global Christian concern and facilitating student engagement in missions.
- Human Rights Awareness (HRA), a student-led coalition of on-campus human rights organizations committed to advocating for and responding to human rights-related injustices in the world.
- C2C is 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 2008–2009 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.).



Elias P. '10 traveled to El Salvador in the spring of '08 and continues to pursue service-learning opportunities.

“My experience at the Agapé Center has been the most **invaluable** part of my time at Messiah College. It is truly an institution of **service** and deep **reflection** on what it means to put our Christian faith into **practice**. I believe that the Agapé Center speaks to Messiah's mission to **prepare** students ‘for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.’”

— Meghan D. '08

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 had its highest number of entrants ever, with more than 220 students participating. 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.



Coach Geof Weisenborn led a service trip for the lacrosse team to West Virginia.



This year, students traveled within Pennsylvania, as well as to West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Georgia, Tennessee, and Illinois.

“We took the Men’s Lacrosse Team on a **service trip** this past spring break because we wanted to expose our team to those who are less fortunate. We wanted to take them **out of their comfort zones** and shift their thinking from themselves to others. We wanted them to see how they have been **blessed** by God with their resources and talents and find a passion to use their gifts to benefit others. The service trip to West Virginia allowed us to **accomplish** these goals and we are looking forward to another trip in the future.”

— Geof Weisenborn, Head Men’s Lacrosse Coach
reflects on team service trip

SERVICE TRIPS AT A GLANCE

Trip	Participants
FALL BREAK (4 days)	
Committee for Plaquemines Recovery (Belle Chase, LA)	25
Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity (Franklin, WV)	15
Christian Endeavor (Gilbertsville, PA)	15
The HAFT Inc. (New Albany, PA)	15
The Urban Discipleship Center (Bronx, NY)	15
Messiah College Philly Campus (Philadelphia, PA)	5
JANUARY TERM BREAK (4 days)	
World Impact (Chester, PA)	12
The HAFT Inc. (New Albany, PA)	11
Urban Promise (Camden, NJ)	12
SPRING BREAK (8 days)	
Urban Promise (Camden, NJ)	7
The HAFT Inc. (New Albany, PA)	8
World Impact (Chester, PA)	7
Koinonia Farm (Americus, GA) Urban Discipleship Center (Bronx, NY)	9
Christian Endeavor (Gilbertsville, PA)	40+
Mountain T.O.P. (Altamont, TN)	9
Sunshine Gospel Ministries (Chicago, IL)	10
Syracuse Rescue Mission (Syracuse, NY)	8
Total	223+

“The service [trip] to Camden has probably been the most **influential** in my life. . . . We spent the week at the Fellowship House working with an after-school program and an Addictions Victorious group. The kids there really **opened my eyes**. They showed me how much I have and how much I should be **thankful** for. I met kids that had never met their parents and kids that literally lived in crack houses. My trip to Camden was really what started the **passion** in me to work with inner city kids.”

—Elizabeth M. '10



The students who participate in Service Trips truly get a unique education that escapes most college graduates today.

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.



Matthew S. '10 traveled to El Salvador last year, and in 2008–09 provided leadership in the Reconciliation House and the Dominican Republic service and mission team with Students International.



Alumni Merit Award winner Robyn S. '09 has continuously walked in the intersection of science and Christian service.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AT A GLANCE

Trip	Participants	Length of Trip
SUMMER		
Nicaragua	6 students	2 weeks
Dominican Republic	12 students	2 weeks
Zambia	8 students	5 weeks
SPRING BREAK		
Northern Ireland	8 students, 1 staff	8 days
El Salvador	9 students, 2 staff	8 days

“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



Alumna Kristen Kane Osorto '07 and alumnus/staff Heraldo Kane Osorto '07 have led two trips to El Salvador in a partnership between the NISM Office and The Office of Multicultural Programs. Heraldo has now left Messiah to work for an international community partner in El Salvador and looks forward to hosting future Messiah teams.

“I got another **opportunity** to preach this past Sunday in the most incredible church! The people there had an incredible fire for God and His Kingdom and we enjoyed some incredible **worship** and **prayer**. I thank God for continuing to stretch me out of my comfort zone and for increasing my **boldness** — thank you for praying into that!

—Brittany K. '10, writing from Tanzania



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



One of the universal elements of international service and mission seems to be developing the “flex-ability” to deal with unforeseen obstacles, schedule changes, and other mishaps.

INDIVIDUAL MISSIONS GRANTS PROGRAM

The Individual 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, the 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. The addition of the Mulberry Grant began out of the personal engagement of the Mulberry donor, who went on a mission trip with Messiah's Dokimoi Ergatai (now the Collaboratory).

To date, more than 500 students have received grants. This year, the Individual Mission Grant Program helped 43 Messiah students go to 15 countries including every populated continent.

Grants have also been given to graduating seniors to help launch them out into lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation. This year, graduating senior Robyn Smith, a previous Individual Mission Grant recipient received a \$1000 grant from World Christian Fellowship to help her begin her two-year mission of teaching in Columbia. Robyn also received the prestigious Alumni Merit Award from Messiah College.

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 ten \$2000 grants towards student tuition to help offset lost summer income that results from commitments to service and mission.

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:

Salt and Light Elective Chapels offered a time for worship, focusing on two themes: *Taking Action: What Can We Do Now?* and *Being in the World and Not of it*. Featured speakers represented various mission organizations, and Messiah students shared their own experiences of service and mission.

The Canoe-a-thon with 42 participants, was a great bonding experience and raised nearly \$3,000 to help students go on summer mission trips. It is the hope of WCF to in the future partner even more closely with colleagues in adventure education and Isaachar's Loft. Many thanks to Canoe-A-Thon veteran and mission advocate Bob Barrett.

Mission Awareness Week (MAW) is one of the ways WCF attempts to connect students with God's heart for the world while encouraging them in their call to life-long service. MAW offers the campus a variety of chapels, discussion groups, teaching and prayer times, and personal contact with representatives of more than 30 mission agencies. These people, many of whom come each year, engage Messiah students in thinking and discernment about the call to national and international missions. This year included nine MAW alternate chapels, which were attended by more than 700 students. Keynote speaker Bob Ekblad of Tierra Nueva encouraged students to seek adventure in discipleship and to infuse allegiance to God with the power of the Spirit and the actions of forgiveness and radical obedience. The WCF leadership team finished the week by attending Called 2008, a missions discernment conference sponsored by Eastern Mennonite Missions.

Other Activities included a bake sale and a concert fundraiser for Jesus-Politik, a ministry to Mozambique founded by a Messiah alum; the Annual Himalayan Tapestry Sale for the women of Dorcas House in Northern India; and the Amazing Race fundraiser for summer missions.



The Canoe-a-thon raised nearly \$3,000 this year to help students go on summer mission trips.



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

“On November 4, election day here in the USA, I had the **privilege** of speaking before some 2,000 students and faculty at Messiah College in Pennsylvania. On election day and thereafter, I invited people to remember that God has **chosen** each one of us, and is recruiting us and **empowering** us with the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus to announce his Kingdom, on earth as in heaven. This does not mean we do not vote or promote structural change. We are called to be **advocates** for the poor and oppressed, to **pray** for our leaders and even to submit to them— but never at the expense of our highest allegiance to Jesus and his kingdom. But now is the time to **remember** that real change does not happen through elections or legislation but through the process of **conversion** and empowerment from the bottom up.”

—Bob Ekblad, Director of the International Ministry Tierra Nueva, based in Skagit County Washington, reflects on his experience speaking at the 2008 Missions Awareness Week

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

Human Rights Awareness (HRA) is composed of three human rights issue clusters. While each addresses distinct issues of human rights, the combined efforts of all of the groups bring a more holistic and expansive view of every issue.

1. **The Abolition and Deliverance** focuses on issues related to modern-day slavery and human trafficking.
2. **The Health and Survival** focuses on issues related to disease and hunger as well as promoting child sponsorship through Food for the Hungry.
3. **The Just Society** focuses on societal issues of racial and gender inequity and governmental abuses.

Human Rights Awareness Activities:

- **Alternate Chapels**—24 chapels were held, including a film series, many of which were attended by approximately 100 students. Guest speakers and presentations educated the campus about various local and international social justice efforts.
- **Bake Sales**—Two bake sales were held, raising nearly \$600 to support Compassion International's World Food Crisis Fund.
- **Congo Awareness Event**—Two Congolese Messiah students educated students and staff about the history of the crisis in the Congo and money was raised for an orphanage there.
- **Fair Trade Coffee**—Nadia S. '09 continued to lead the push to keep the sale of Fair Trade Coffee on campus, partnering with Mark Wirtz in Dining Services.
- **Human Rights Awareness Week**—Included a community commemoration of World AIDS Day, featuring local choirs, a showing of the documentary, Sons of Lwala (about two Kenyan AIDS physicians), and a panel featuring AIDS Community Alliance President Philip K. Goropoulos. Other events included: a faculty panel on human rights, the "Life is Beautiful" photo display to promote healthy body image, a chapel about the human rights crisis in Burma, a fundraiser for New Life orphanage in Kenya and for single moms in Harrisburg



through a partnership with the Amani Bead Project.

- **Rummage Sale**—Each year, students are asked to donate clothes, which are then sold in a rummage sale at a week-long campus thrift store. This year nearly \$700 was raised for V-Day and their campaign to end the violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **World Food Day**—Students set up a display and ran a food drive on campus to educate about hunger around the world and support a local food pantry.

Currently, the International Justice Mission Chapter, which is part of Abolition and Deliverance, is thriving. Student leader Marisa P. '10 and her husband Nate have assembled a passionate team of student advocates for this great organization. This year, IJM events included:

International Justice Mission Events:

- **Loose Change to Loosen Chains**—This event raised \$2028 to help IJM free two victims of forced sex slavery into a new life of healing.
- **Prayer Vigil**—Students gathered for victims of bonded labor and sex-trafficking.
- **Community BBQ**—This event brought the IJM message to the greater community, raised support for Love146, an IJM partner organization dedicated to prevention of child exploitation and aftercare for rescued children. It also

included a jewelry sale benefitting "The Well," an aftercare center in Thailand.

- **Regional Training Event**—IJM staff came to campus to host a statewide training event for IJM campus chapters and local advocates

Human Rights work is not a passing trend for activist-minded college students. Heather C., the HRA Director for 2008–2009 recently accepted a position with Mennonite **Volunteer Service**. She will be working in Washington, D.C. with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She writes, "I will be a **protection** counselor, communicating mostly with detained asylum-seekers letting them know their rights and **providing** them information."

—Heather C. '09

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, the retreat focused on God's passion for drawing diverse people together into one, helping individuals to reconcile with one another and with God. Other training topics from this year also 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, 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? 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.
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.



The NISM Office often partners with the Collaboratory, an organization housed in the Messiah College School of Mathematics, Engineering, and Business, to train students for culturally sensitive project implementation in developing nations.



Chad Frey '96, director of the Agapé Center for Service and Learning, engages in a time of reflection with students at the Mission Training Program.

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY AND COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY (C2C)

This 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 (like Messiah College) 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.

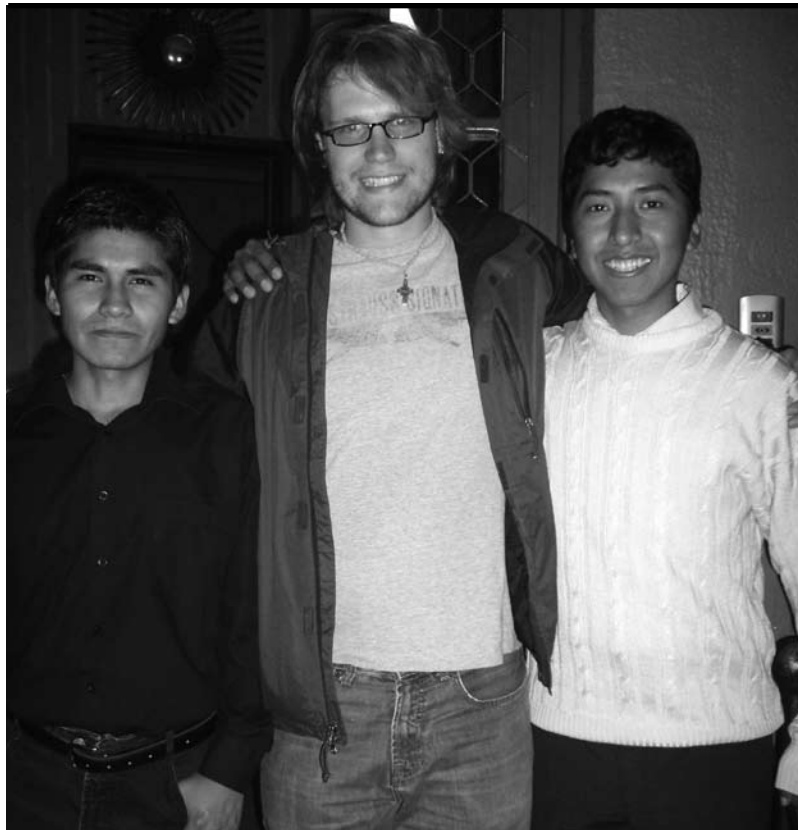
The relationship with Rodeo, Messiah's C2C partner, has begun with multiple points of engagement. Starting this summer, Messiah alum Chris Putnam is interning with FH in Bolivia and working to assess possibilities and to develop the relationship. This summer, following a service-learning community-based research course with FH, biology professor Erik Lindquist and his family will be headed to Bolivia on sabbatical to help FH start a study-abroad program called Go-Ed Andes. Messiah students will be the first to participate in this exciting new educational experience. Next year, a short-term mission team will be the first to be sent.

This year, to kick off C2C, the Senior Gift Committee selected a water-project in Rodeo for the senior gift and the Class of 2009 gave over \$4,000—the largest senior gift ever!

Chris Putnam '09, is currently working with FH around Rodeo. You can check out his account of his time with FH in Bolivia at: www.chrisputnam.info/bolivia/home/



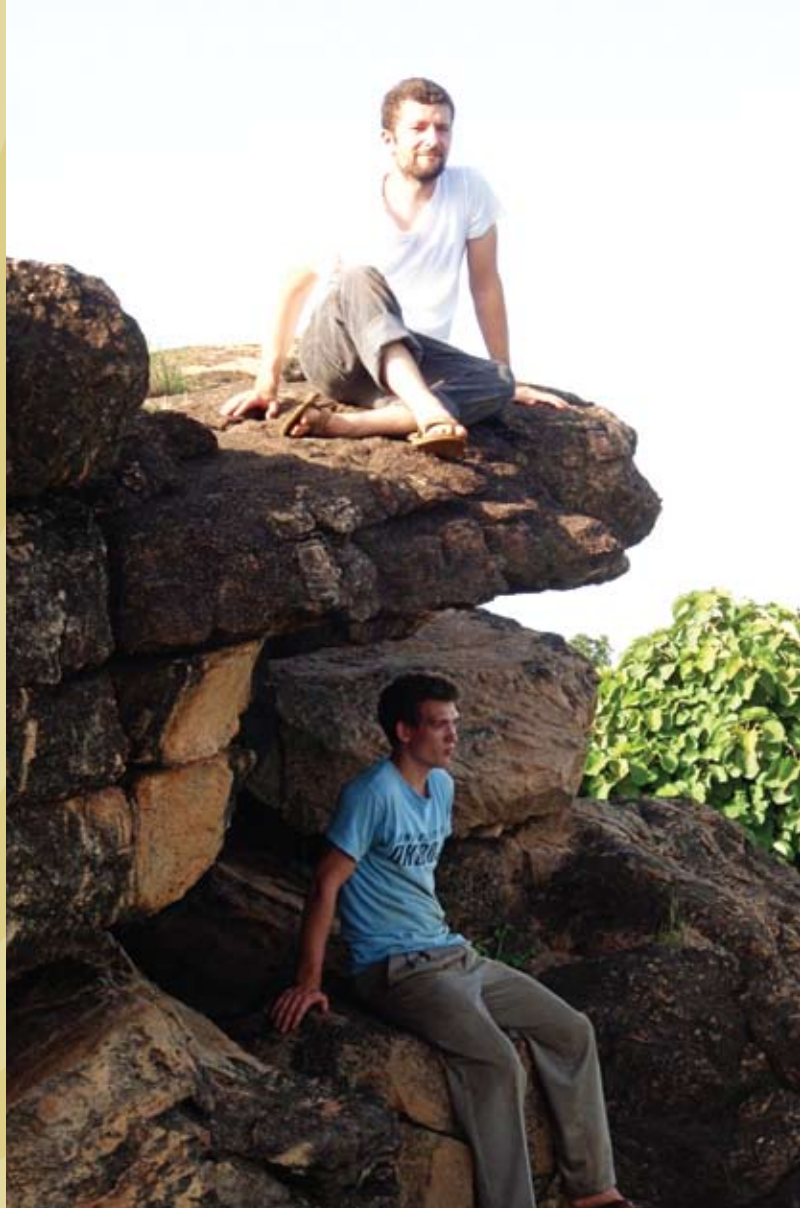
Nicole S. '09 travels to Bolivia to work with a Christian development and relief organization on service-learning projects.



Chris P. '09 develops friendships while serving in Bolivia with Food for the Hungry.

“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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