

National and International *Service and Mission*



GREG ANDERSON

National and International Service and Missions Director
2006–2007

STUDENTS TOUCH LIVES IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD

The Agapé Center's National and International Service and Mission programming offers students opportunities to exercise their faith and enhance their educational experience in practical, life-changing ways. Students can participate in the following:

- International service and mission trips during spring or summer breaks
- National service trips during fall, J-term and spring breaks
- Opportunities for individuals to receive grants to assist them with service through other organizations or their home churches
- World Christian Fellowship, a student-led group dedicated to increasing concern for the world through awareness, training, action, and prayer
- New! — Human Rights Awareness, a student-led group committed to advocating for, and responding to, human rights-related injustices in the world

As it coordinates service experiences at home and abroad, the Center continually strives to assess current programming and identify potential improvements. Next year's efforts will include:

- Continuing to establish and develop programming for the Human Rights Awareness student organization
- Developing a "portable" training and team management formation model for groups across campus to send international service and mission teams
- Working to further build relationships between the Agapé Center's missions programming and World Christian Fellowship and the Christian Ministries' global ministry major
- Welcoming a new Director of the National and International Service and Mission programs to replace the current director who is moving on



The Agapé Center is excited to welcome Matt Hunter back to Messiah as the new National and International Service and Missions Director. As a '97 alumnus, Matt is no stranger to Messiah. As he finishes his doctorate in Religious Studies at Temple University, Matt will not only be a gifted facilitator in the field, but in the classroom as well. Welcome, Matt!

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International Service and Mission Teams Annual Report 2006–07

Each August, the Agapé Center selects locations and lays the foundation for international service and mission trips that will take place the following spring and summer. Each student team along with participating faculty or staff members, come together in early November and begin meeting weekly until their departure date. The weekly meetings allow the teams to develop close bonds of community, accountability, and trust. This also is an excellent time to work on practical skills for their service sites, learning about the countries to which they are traveling, and preparing them for a lifestyle of holistic community service and care. The teams also attend a cross-cultural training retreat where they grow closer through challenging learning activities focused on ministering and building relationships in settings unlike their own. Through the sharing of these many experiences, the students prepare themselves to work together as the body of Christ in service to God and the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Agapé Center for Service and Learning develops, administers, facilitates, 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." Students, faculty, and staff work with community-based partners in local, national, and international settings to address community needs, to provide holistic learning opportunities for students, and to encourage students toward an ethic of discipleship, service, and civic engagement.



Messiah's international summer service teams allow students the opportunity to engage the broader global community.

International Service at a Glance

Trip	Participants	Length of Trip
<i>Summer '06</i>		
El Salvador	11 students, 2 staff	2 weeks
Albania	12 students, 2 staff	2 weeks
Mexico	5 students	10 weeks
China	7 students	5 weeks
<i>Spring Break '07</i>		
Northern Ireland	9 students, 1 staff	10 days
Belize	12 students, 1 staff	9 days
<i>Summer '07</i>		
Nicaragua	12 students, 2 staff	2 weeks
Ecuador	13 students, 2 staff	2 weeks
Tanzania	10 students	6 weeks
Dominican Republic	5 students	10 weeks

SERVICE TRIPS



Over 120 students participated in service trips to 11 different community partners. Taken as a whole, they volunteered more than 16,000 hours of community services, the equivalent of more than \$114,000 at the current minimum wage.

NATIONAL SERVICE TRIPS CHANGE LIVES

Service Trips is a unique organization, providing opportunities for students to serve over their fall, J-term, and spring breaks and helping the College to realize and fulfill its vision for reconciliation between the church and society. Teams enable community partners to accomplish projects and tasks in a short amount of time that would otherwise be very time-consuming and expensive.

"During the week of March 19, my wife, Marilyn, and I had the opportunity to work with a group of young women from Messiah. They were on a short-term mission trip to the Haft arranged through the Agapé Center. The young women were a great help and a joy to work and worship with. . . . Much was accomplished during their stay and they are welcome to return whenever they can."

—Haft Ministry Employee

National Service and Mission Partners 2006–2007

The Haft Ministry, Bradford County, PA
Fellowship House, Camden, NJ
The Rescue Mission, Syracuse, NY
Chosen People Ministries, NY
World Impact, Newark, NJ
Steinbruck Center for Urban Studies, Washington, D.C.
Mountain T.O.P., TN
Habitat for Humanity, NC
Urban Discipleship Center, NY
Lutheran Disaster Services, FL
Presbytery of MS Disaster Relief, MS

National Service at A Glance

TRIP	PARTICIPANTS	LENGTH OF TRIP
Fall Break '06 Pennsylvania New Jersey New York	22 students	4 days
J-Term Break '07 New York Washington, D.C.	25 students	4 days
Spring Break '07 Pennsylvania New Jersey Washington D.C. Tennessee North Carolina New York Florida Mississippi	81 students	8 days

128 total participants x 16 total days x 8 hrs/day =
16,384 hours of service



Service trips provide important opportunities for students to reach out to others. In service, students actively respond to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

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.

World Christian Fellowship engages students' hearts

World Christian Fellowship (WCF) experienced an incredible year of growth and change, reshaping and reorganizing many programs to provide a number of exciting opportunities for Messiah's campus:

Salt and Light Chapels—Hosting various missions-related speakers and offering times of worship and prayer focused on World Christian issues, WCF offered six elective chapels per semester.

Alternate Chapel Series—A time of training, discussion and fellowship in a comfortable coffeehouse-style atmosphere, this new monthly chapel series was designed specifically for students serious about and considering long-term investments in missions.

Canoe-a-thon—This was WCF's 29th year of sponsoring this fund-raising event for summer mission grant money, this year raising over \$5,200.

10,000 Villages Sale—Offering a fair-trade option just in time for Christmas, WCF hosted this successful sale in December.

Urbana—Urbana '06 was InterVarsity's twenty-first triennial student missions convention designed to help transform students and develop world changers. This past December, WCF was able to take a bus of 52 Messiah students to St. Louis, Missouri, to participate in this six-day event during which they explored potential opportunities with hundreds of missions agencies, experienced worship in eight different languages, heard many renowned speakers, attended classes and training workshops and grew together as a community.

30 Hour Famine—In late February, WCF joined with Human Rights Awareness in a joint effort to raise awareness on campus about human rights-related needs, and responding to it through fasting, prayer, worship, service and the raising of over \$800 for World Vision.



Every three years, tens of thousands of students gather at Urbana.

"Working with fellow Messiah students is so *rewarding* as we all work together to improve our college, and the *community*, and prepare to go into the world."

—Joe Fang '08



Members of the 2006-2007 World Christian Fellowship Leadership team.

Mission Awareness Week

Mission Awareness Week is one of the ways WCF attempts to connect students with God's heart for the world while encouraging them in their life-long callings. Each November, this conference-style focus week offers the campus a variety of chapels, discussion groups, teaching and prayer times, meals together, worship opportunities and much more. This year, WCF hosted 45 representatives from 26 different mission organizations on campus to live, eat and share with Messiah students about what's happening in missions today and how they can be involved.

WCF NUMBERS 2006-2007

Salt and Light average attendance	75 students, 12 chapels
Alternate Chapel Series average attendance	40 students, 6 chapels
Canoe-a-thon	38 participants, 10 guides
Elective chapel attendance	90 students
Mission Awareness Week	
average alternate chapel attendance	60 students, 9 chapels
number of representatives	45 representatives, 26 agencies
average of students for special meals with representatives	15 students, 5 meals
Urbana	52 students, 2 staff
30 Hour Famine participants	35 students, 4 prayer groups

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

Human rights advocates for justice throughout the world

Human Rights Awareness (HRA) went through a dynamic change this past year, most significantly the transfer of organizational oversight from the Local Community Service to the National and International Service and Mission Office in the Agapé Center. HRA has also officially become its own recognized organization and will move toward SGA chartership in fall 2007.

The structure of HRA has evolved into four major sections, each with its own team and student coordinator:

- **International Justice Mission (IJM)**—focusing on human rights abuse such as sex trafficking
- **Amnesty International**—focusing on abuses caused by governments and large corporations
- **Children's Issues**—working with Compassion International and other children's organizations
- **World Diseases**—partnering with Acting on AIDS, Blood: Water Mission, and others to raise awareness and response to international diseases

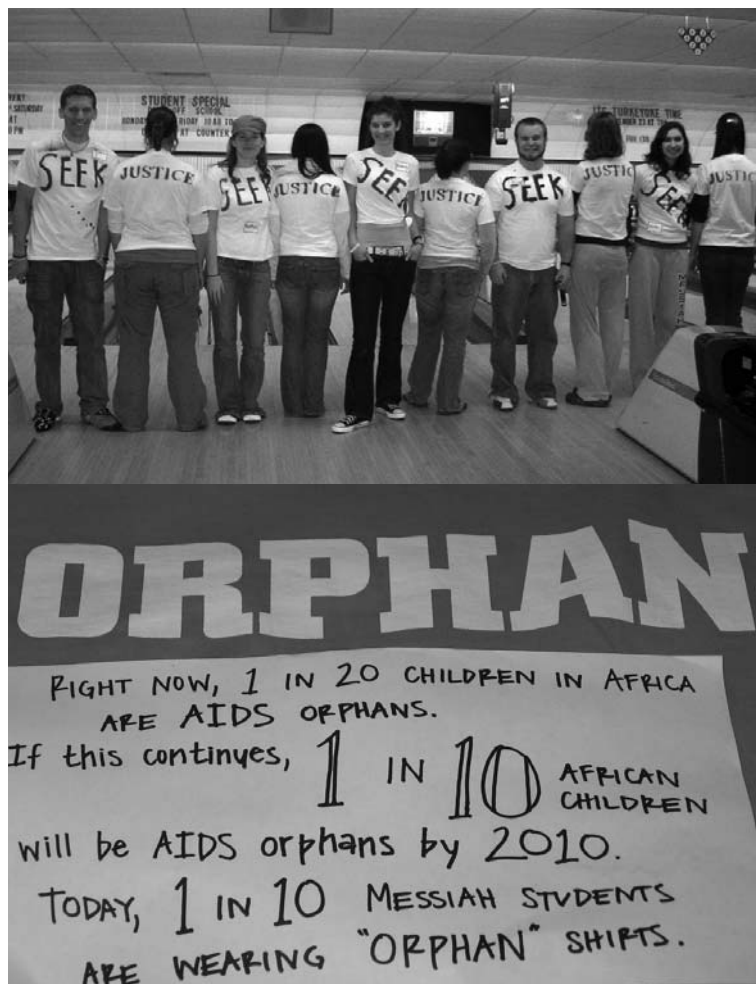
Awareness Raising Events

This year, Human Rights Awareness teams hosted many campus-wide events, raising almost \$4,500 for International Justice Mission, Compassion International, Invisible Children, and an aftercare agency in Thailand. Organized events included:

- **Alternate Chapels** – A number of alternate chapels were presented, ranging from the Invisible Children documentary (with over 400 students attending), to fair trade issues, such as understanding the coffee industry.
- **World AIDS Day** – Acting on AIDS again sponsored the ORPHAN t-shirt campaign, an on-campus awareness raising event that poignantly highlights the number of children orphaned by AIDS each year.
- **Visible Love** – A fundraiser for the Invisible Children cause, hundreds of students donated money to have their hair cut, raising more than \$1,000.
- **Compassion Events** – The Children's Issues team raised more than \$1,400 for Compassion International's Child Survival Program through two main events:
 - **Prayer Flag Sale** – Originally an eastern tradition (from places like Nepal and Tibet), "prayer flags" are cut from little scraps of fabric and strung outdoors to bless the surrounding area. This spring, students were asked to donate \$1 to personalize a prayer flag with a country, name, verse, or drawing which was then hung in Larsen Student Union as a visual reminder of the 30,000 children who die every day from neglect and abuse.
 - **Compassion Café** – For two mornings this spring, a small café was held in Boyer Hall, offering doughnuts, coffee, and lemonade for students to purchase on their way to class.

"Just being able to play a small part in this huge picture of *saving children's lives* around the world has meant so much. This is an *opportunity* to really be Jesus' 'hands and feet,' though we are not able to physically be there and love the children. We can *love* them through our *actions* of advocacy right here where we are."

— Caitlin Schneider '09



Top: The HRA team staffed a middle school bowl-a-thon fundraiser for Invisible Children efforts in Uganda. Bottom: With the help of World Vision, HRA led AIDS awareness on campus including a t-shirt campaign on Acting on AIDS day.

THE COLLABORATORY FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND APPLIED RESEARCH

THE COLLABORATORY

As part of Messiah's School of Math, Engineering and Business, the Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research (formally known as Dokimoi Ergatai) brings Messiah students and educators together to apply disciplinary knowledge and express value commitments through creative, hands-on problem solving. They seek to foster justice, empower the poor, reconcile adversaries, and care for the earth, in the context of academic engagement in the disciplines of each school.

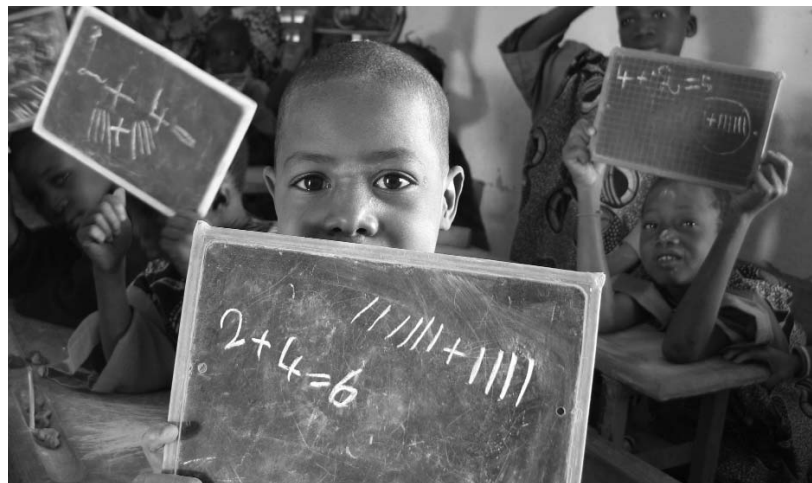
The Collaboratory sent out four site teams this year. In partnership with the Agapé Center, a Messiah faculty member and student traveled to Zambia to explore the possibilities of a paper-making process that the microeconomic development group can later turn into a small business venture. The water group sent teams to both Mali and Honduras. In Mali, the water group completed its first and second out of six total planned trips aimed at assessing the limitations and opportunities for access and use of water and sanitation facilities by disabled and elderly persons in communities served by World Vision Mali. In Honduras, members installed a water purification device in a Medical Mission International (MMI) eye and dental clinic, while also exploring other potential partnerships in the area.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Water Access	5
Disability Resources	12
Energy	16
Transportation	15
Staff	25
Water Purification	20
Microeconomic Development	7
Education	4
Total students involved	104

2006–2007 Collaboratory Leaders

Dr. David Vader, Director
Lindsay Reilly '06, Manager
Joel Travis '07, Student Director
Jonathan Patrick '08, Assistant Student Director
Diana Teller '07, Student Staff Manager
Michelle Carrier '08, Assistant Student Staff Manager



Students involved with The Collaboratory work in one of eight application groups:

Staff

Staff serves the Collaboratory's application groups in the areas of human resources, finance, logistics, marketing and information management. The staff group grew in structure and services as it added a human resources team, worked to create budgets for each of the application groups and track expenses, planned the logistics for the site trips, published two newsletters, produced a short video showcasing the Collaboratory's work, organized chapels, purchased a server, collaborated to guide the creation of a database for the Collaboratory's use, and developed a new website.

Communications

As a new addition to the Collaboratory through the engineering department's Integrated Projects Curriculum (IPC), the communications group spent much of its time building a foundation for future growth. The communications group continued its work in Alternate Aviation Solutions in partnership with United Indian Missions (UIM) and three senior engineering students.

Education

Also as a new addition to the Collaboratory, the education group crafted a 20-page counting book that teaches basic numeracy and strengthens abstract thinking skills. They plan to distribute their work to the Burkinabe children, as well as explore other ways to improve upon the children's literacy and technology resources, during a trip planned for January 2008.

Energy

The energy group used its expertise in two projects this year, while balancing a constant demand for new projects with existing resources. The Solar Scholars project, in partnership with the Sustainable Energy Fund (SEF) and Gannet Flemming, Inc., is aimed at constructing a solar power station on the Messiah College campus to serve as a training, education, and research facility. The biodiesel project is a continuing project aimed at perfecting the small-scale, mobile, production of biofuels that will empower farmers in the Democratic Republic of Congo to pay for healthcare.

Left: Dan Dourte '04 works alongside Moussa, the local technician in Burkina Faso, to make some last-minute adjustments to the electric tricycle.



Transportation

The transportation group is new to the Collaboratory, born from the Genesis projects and the Flying Club. The transportation group strives to create vehicles that use resources wisely, to educate the public about uses of alternative energy, and to encourage such uses. In this, the transportation group has been continuing their efforts to create a light sport aircraft (LSA) for use in the missions aviation field, and has begun a new initiative in solar commuter vehicles.

Water

The merger was a success! Two Collaboratory groups, water access and water purification, successfully joined their visions into a single water group. Together they are taking on large projects in Mali, Honduras, Burkina Faso, and even at the Joshua Farm in Harrisburg. The water group sent out three site teams this year, each with great success.

Microeconomic Development (MED)

The microeconomic development group is another new establishment of the Collaboratory, grown out of the former microenterprise group. MED seeks to grow and support local economies through developing, analyzing, and expanding various business opportunities. Once perfected, they hope to turn a paper-making process in Zambia into a successful small business venture to support the locals in Zambia. MED plans to host a conference devoted to the Mondragón style of economic development in the fall of 2007.

Disability Resources

The disability resources group is an old group (formerly the mobility group) with a new name. The Collaboratory saw a greater need for helping handicapped persons than focusing solely on methods of transportation. The disability resources group is currently continuing their design of hand-powered and electric tricycles, while also looking for new and exciting ways to serve God with their expertise.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Collaboratory seeks to strengthen its cultural and relational bonds while also focusing on objective items such as fiscal sustainability. The Collaboratory wishes to extend its programming to all disciplines of the School of Mathematics, Engineering, and Business, giving students the opportunity to work alongside their professors and apply their classroom knowledge to make a real world difference.



Dan Barlow '09 and Kyle Schaeffer '08 assemble the team's water purification system as eager Hondurans watch closely.

"This semester I realized how much *change* students are able to effect. In classes we theorize so much about ideals, and we often take on an attitude that we will *change the world* after we get our degrees and enter the workforce. The reality is the time to change is now. Most likely there will not be, relatively speaking, more time or money to enact the changes we wish to. Effecting change with *eternal* consequences for the kingdom of God requires learning, and what safer place to learn than as a student leader at Messiah College?"

—Stephanie Nitschke '08

For more information about The Collaboratory, contact:

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