



# AGAPÉ CENTER

For Service And Learning

## Annual Report 1999-2000

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**Service-Learning  
Summer Service & Mission  
Community Volunteer Service  
Outreach Teams  
World Christian Fellowship  
Service Teams  
Dokomoi Ergatai**



**Annual Report  
1999-2000**

**John W. Eby, Ph.D.  
Director**

*"Jesus is reliving His passion in our poor people. The poor are really going through the passion of Christ. We should treat them with dignity.... Give to Christ in His distressing disguise. It is Jesus in the poor that you feed, clothe and take in. Do it with a great, undivided love."*

*"It is not so bad to have at least one congregation that spoils the poor, when everybody else spoils the rich. I am deeply impressed by the fact that before explaining the word of God, before presenting to the crowds the Eight Beatitudes, Jesus had compassion on them and gave them food. Only then did He begin to teach them."*

*- Mother Teresa*

The Agapé Center for Service and Learning became reality this year when the renovations were completed and Outreach Teams and Dokimoi Ergatai moved in. The year has proven the validity of the vision which led to the formation of the center. There has been increased coordination between programs and a shared vision and sense of teamwork has developed. The number of students participating in programs has increased, there have been many more requests for information about service and mission than in previous years and the number of requests and the quality of programming has been enhanced.

The primary purpose of the Agapé Center is to provide vision, collaboration, infrastructure and support for participating programs. The effectiveness of the Center is measured not by its visibility or activity but by the effectiveness of the member programs. The Center has been particularly effective in providing visibility in the broader academy for Messiah College and our service programs.

Here are a few of the highlights from this year in which the Agapé Center and its personnel played a role.

- An effective orientation retreat was held in the fall prior to the beginning of classes for staff of programs related to the Agapé Center.
- Mission awareness week was particularly effective with an increased number of representatives contributing to classes.

promotion decisions, traditional understandings of teaching and learning, and lack of strong institutional support and mandate inhibit broad implementation. There is a lot of generalized support and the college has invested in staff and facilities for the Agapé Center, but often when decisions are made about courses, programs, general education, curriculum, and budget, service-learning comes out on the short end.

The key challenge lies in institutionalizing service-learning into the core of the college program and the key strategy for doing this is providing resources to make it possible for faculty to incorporate service-learning into classes. A task force has been appointed to review general education. I have expressed openness to work with the committee to explore possibilities to incorporate a service-learning component into the general education program.

It would seem that the cutting edge and area with the most potential for service-learning at Messiah College is in incorporating academic reflection into volunteer service activities rather than incorporating service into academic courses. The engineering department has done this very effectively in the landmine abatement project and the West Africa project. Outreach teams have included seminars and reflection activities related to their volunteer service as have service teams and summer missions. The Nursing and Education departments emphasize service and involve their students in service activities as part of their curriculum. An increasing proportion of internships are related to service agencies and have potential for incorporating learning about the social issues encountered. There is interest in incorporating service in cross-cultural courses but thus far very little implementation, largely because most cross-cultural courses are not long enough to authentically incorporate service.

### **Summary**

This was a very good year for service-learning at Messiah College. A number of new and innovative things happened. The on-going challenge lies in finding ways to assist more faculty to use service-learning and to find ways to institutionalize service-learning into the core of the college activity and attention.

## Summer Service and Mission 2000

**Cindy Blount and John Eby**

More than 62 students participated in summer missions and service the summer of 2000. Teams went to China and Nicaragua. An "experiment" linking summer missions and service-learning sent 8 students to Belize, both as a summer missions team and for their service-learning placements.

### **China**

Thirteen students led by Heather Werthmuller taught English in inner Mongolia through the English Language Institute. This team was particularly effective both in providing a learning experience for students and in sharing authentic witness and service. Several factors contributed to this effectiveness.

The English Language Institute has a long and on-going ministry in China. Working with them provided structure and relationships which gave integrity and authenticity to the activity. Teaching English is a particularly good activity. Students provide real service by giving local students opportunity to interact with native speakers. Since much of the instruction is conversation, there is opportunity to raise interesting and significant conversations about the meaning of life and about faith in very natural ways and to respond to student questions rather than to find ways to initiate the topics. Heather Werthmuller, the leader had served in China with the English Language Institute so was familiar with the organization and with the culture. The students lived in a city where there were few other ex-patriots. They stayed at the same location, teaching the same students for four weeks. This allowed building deep relationships.

The experience for students was particularly rich because for most of them it was the first time in a culture so different from their own where Christianity was not the dominant religion and democracy the political structure. The long time with the same people who could speak some English also fostered deep learning.

### **Nicaragua**

Fifteen persons served in a project building a rural school in Nicaragua. Heather Allen and Kevin Heide, two students led the group. Deborah Richardson-Bouie, a family studies faculty member was a participant advisor. The group worked with Bridge Builders International and Argos Foundation who made the local arrangements and provided on-site leadership.

### **Belize**

Eight students who were part of the service-learning class went to Belize together as a group, though they worked at several different locations. Messiah College contracted with Target Earth to manage the program and provide local support. Students were able to work in areas

## **Community Volunteer Service**

**Jeffrey M. Rioux**  
**Director**

This year was significant for the area of community volunteer service in both vision and visibility. This was the first year that Outreach Teams were physically located in the Agapé Center, which positively affected both the relationship and the coordination between Outreach Teams and their advisor, the Volunteer Services Director. With this move, both the vision and visibility of Outreach Teams were improved, and the effects on participation were evident.

Visibility was strengthened even more significantly with the addition of two service events to the Messiah College calendar. Into the Streets, held during Fall Welcome Week for all new students, and ServiceDay 2000, held in May as an all-campus service day, were both new events that facilitated participation of 800 and 1400 members of the Messiah community, respectively. The success of these events is measured in many ways: the grateful letters received from community agencies; the smiling faces of the Special Olympics athletes; the increase in participation in ongoing activities after the events have taken place. Also significant is the increased sense of identity which says "Messiah College is a place where people care and where people serve." These events sharpen our identity both within the Messiah College community and in the minds of the community around us.

### **Outreach Teams**

Under a new structure based on Gettysburg College's model and utilizing federal community service work study money to compensate leaders, Outreach Teams brought a new look to its new location in the Agapé Center. These factors contributed to increased communication with community partners, an increase in the number of ongoing projects, an increase in participation and commitment of students, and more training opportunities for those involved in service. The number of ongoing projects increased from 26 to 32, and the total number of participants in these projects increased from 562 to 722. The Habitat for Humanity Chapter, which had been a student club separate from Outreach Teams, became a part of Outreach Teams this year, which was a natural transition and has increased coordination and effectiveness for the Habitat Chapter.

Equally as exciting as all of these improvements is the excitement and commitment of the leadership of Outreach Teams. While this commitment can be seen in the many ways Outreach has improved, it is also evident in the training they have sought for themselves. Two students attended national conferences this year, and each one brought back ideas and vision that shape who Outreach is becoming. In addition, the commitment level can be seen in the contributions the leaders made in helping to make ServiceDay a success. Indeed, the Director could not have organized the event without their many contributions.

# **Outreach Teams**

**Britney Mussler  
Director**

## **Introduction**

It was a wonderful experience begin the director of Outreach Teams this year. I learned more about what real servant leadership is this year alone, than all my others years as a student leader combined. It was a great blessing to see the vision we had for Outreach Teams grow and become accomplished. It was an even greater blessing to see the growth and talents of so many people who are involved in some way with Outreach Teams.

## **Be a Liaison For the Outreach Teams**

Being a part of the Agape Center staff was a great experience. Working in the same building as the other staff members provided a constant support each day and also helped to keep communication flowing easily. I really enjoyed getting to know all the staff at the Agape Center and being a part of the overall goals we had as a center. My connection with MCSA was also helpful to get an idea of the broader idea going on at Messiah College and while I was not able to attend all the functions, it was great to see the excitement of the other student leaders as they served their areas. Some of the other committees I was on, due to this position, simply helped to broaden my horizon of all that goes on at Messiah, which was also an enjoyable experience.

## **Chair the Outreach Teams Committees**

It has been so wonderful to see the growth in all the Outreach Team Coordinators this year. Through out weekly meetings, monthly update meetings, and time to meet with the advisor, I have been able to really keep up to date with all that was going on. The relationship with the Assistant Director was somewhat different than I expected, but there was much to get done with the new structure that between Kim and I we were able to keep things running smoothly, although we couldn't always work on things as a team..

## **Lead the Leadership Committee in the Development of a Vision**

We had two visions this year, one to implement the new structure and two, to get to the root of why we serve.

I have to say that they were both extremely successful. The new structure in definitely complete, even though it took some time to get there. Things within Outreach Teams run very smoothly with the new structure and it seems more was accomplished this year because of it.

The second vision has grown and is being used for next year as well. The entire idea of Outreach Teams and what we are about is being questioned and strengthened as we deepen our relationship with the community to were we do not just band-aid events, but really help

# **World Christian Fellowship**

**Angela Jo Rider  
Director**

## **Summary of Year**

It has been truly remarkable to see how God has moved in and through World Christian Fellowship this year! Last year was a year of strong transition with change in both structure and purpose. Our council began its year in mid-April by meeting regularly to begin the process of forming unity and to center ourselves around a common vision for the 1999-2000 school year. As a council, we agreed to take the focus of World Christian Fellowship away from just "missions" and to place more emphasis on what it means for each of us to be a World Christian. Paul Borthwick gives a definition of a World Christian that our council fully agreed upon. He says, "[the world-class Christian is willing to wrestle not only with what it means to be capable with God's purpose, but also with what it means to live in harmony with our brothers and sisters in Christ and around the world." We feel that this involves accepting the responsibility of seeking awareness and understanding of all God's people and responding to current situations in the way that God particularly calls each one of us to do.

It is for this reason that WCF decided to focus its energies on bringing awareness, compassion, and understanding to the students and faculty on our campus. We did this first and foremost with the understanding that we as people are not capable of delivering these things to people, but that it is through the act of God working in people's lives that these things can be carried out. To be more effective with our year and to make sure we brought at least some parts of each area of the world to focus, we divided the year into six World Focuses--North America, Africa, Asia, South and Central America, Europe, and the Middle East. It was our goal to organize the events and functions of WCF around the current World Focus.

The school year began with a weekend retreat at Al Long's cabin for all those working in the Agape Center. This was a time where the people that make up the Agape Center could become familiar with one another, and a time for the individual organizations to become more acquainted and prepare for the year ahead. The canoe-a-thon was the first major planning event for the year. We began advertising at the Opportunities Fair and set up a table outside of Lottie Nelson for one week. We had 50 participants canoe down the Yellow Breeches on September 25th. The canoe-a-thon brought many frustrations this year. Just over 50% of the participants raised the \$100 they committed to raising. Despite a reminder in November, we did not receive nearly all the money we should have. In future years, it is essential that each participant fully realize the commitment they are making and it's significance to WCF, and that there be extreme follow-up on those who do not hand in their support.

The Elective Chapel was an integral part of WCF this year and was done in accordance with the World Focus. In the beginning of the year, we moved the location of the chapel from

## ***World Christian Focus***

Another addition to WCF this year was the newsletter, *World Christian Focus*. The newsletter has been used for several years in WCF but was discontinued. As a council, we thought that it would enhance the purpose of our organization. Kate Lloyd, Secretary/Publicist, took on the responsibility of Editor. We had several sections--a list of upcoming activities, a reflection on a recent or upcoming event in WCF, a prayer section, a section titled "Hearing from a World Christian," and a section listing our next World Focus and the corresponding elective chapels. Attached to the newsletter was an insert titled "The Church Around the World" which further updated the students and faculty on current events and what different Christians were doing around the world. The newsletter was published for each World Focus and corresponded to that particular area of the world. It was sent to approximately 150 people and handed out at the elective chapels.

## **The Prayer Coordinator**

Because we are powerless without the strong influence of God in our lives, prayer was an essential part of WCF. While I do not feel we made prayer nearly the priority it should be given, we tried to incorporate it in our meetings and activities. The Prayer Coordinator position is challenging because of the lack of desire students have to see prayer be a priority in their lives. It is difficult to plan prayer events when participation is very low. One of the main suggestions I make for the following years is to make prayer first priority in the lives of those involved in WCF and the organization itself. Through prayer, God can continue to do great things through us and will do far more than we ever perceived possible. The Prayer Coordinator should maintain weekly contact with each council member for a time of prayer for his/her life and the activities of his/her position.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, God has evidenced his great love for us this year. He has showed what great things he wants to do through each one of us who are his instruments. He has showed how his power is magnified when believers come together to serve him as one body. While every group of people has struggles at some points, I have seen our group unify to serve the purpose God has set forth for WCF. We have been able to see students make significant strides in their responsibilities of being World Christians. Through WCF's connection to the Agape Center, MCSA, and College Ministries, we have the support which allows us to be a stronger voice on campus. As it has been said before, World Christian Fellowship has been blessed by God in so many ways, and will continue to grow and spread as the Lord leads World Christians to educate and equip his servants. "Praise be to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Jesus Christ to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20.



## Service Teams

**Jeff Delp**  
**Director**

### Opening Remarks

I cannot be thankful enough for the opportunity that I had this year to serve as the Director of Service Teams. The year was absolutely amazing and I will take from it plenty of experiences. I have both learned and grown a lot from this year. The Director position has taught me a lot about the qualities needed for effective leadership. It has also taught me the necessity of servant leadership.

### Summary of the Year

This year was a year of unanticipated growth. For much of the year it felt like we were just trying to accommodate each person instead of having him or her fit into our plan. The response to fall break completely took us by surprise, pleasantly of course. In the spring of 1999, we planned for two fall break trips, one more than last year. However, with the overwhelming response to fall break, we were able to send four trips to Washington DC, New York City, Newark NJ, and Chester, PA. Forty-five participants went on the break trips, an increase close to 400% over last years 10.

Christmas break was also an adventure for Service Teams. We sent three teams over the break. Trips went to Washington DC, Newark NJ, and Toronto Canada. The trip to Toronto was Service Teams' first excursion outside of the country. Although we met some administrative difficulties at the border, overall, the experience was tremendous. The team really bonded and enjoyed the experience. Twenty-seven participants in all went on Christmas break trips this year, a slight increase from last year's total of 24, although we sent one more trip this year.

With the growth of fall break and Christmas break, we were not quite sure what to expect for spring break. We had moderate growth for spring break raising participants from 113 to 136. However, we sent the most number of trips ever, 15. Trips went as far as South Dakota and as close as Philadelphia.

| <b>Participants</b> | <b>1998-99</b> | <b>1999-2000</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Fall Break          | 10             | 45               |
| Christmas           | 24             | 27               |
| Spring              | 113            | 136              |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>147</b>     | <b>208</b>       |

For the first time this year, we had a leadership training session for each of the three breaks. The spring retreat was held in Washington DC at Center for Student Missions. The weekend was a good mixture of hands on learning through service and training from the Leader Coordinator. Improvements were made on last year's weekend based on the evaluations filled

# **Dokimoi Ergatai**

**Mike Foster  
Director**

Dokimoi Ergatai did a lot of learning and building this year. Both the administration and our single project discovered that we have a long way to go to perfect our processes.

## **Administration Team**

The administration team, formed prior to this year, came slowly together during the fall 1999 semester. Beginning with no operating procedures was a very daunting task. Many pre-existing schedule conflicts, lack of clear expectations and perhaps over commitment did not help our pursuit. The founders of Dokimoi Ergatai had already drawn up a minimal organizational structure that anticipated needs in the future. Currently four main areas exist under the Faculty Advisor and Director: Financial, Public Relations, Project Coordinator, and Information. For each of these roles, job descriptions were proposed and lines of communication were explored. One of the last major decisions that occurred was in creating a working document where regulations and procedures would be entered. As new decisions or events arose, this document could be updated to preserve the best way to accomplish objectives. We held few administration meetings in the spring semester as all available persons were needed to meet our summer 2000 obligations in Burkina Faso. Administrative leaders became members of the West Africa Pump Project team.

## **West Africa Pump Project**

The West Africa Pump Project saw much improvement in procedures. With a July 15, 2000 deadline, pressure was felt at the beginning of the fall semester. We improved project team organization and improved goal setting over the previous semester. Advisors, both faculty and outside industry volunteers helped with advising and tasking each group. As the year ends, four groups are in different areas of testing and documentation, but all see the tremendous progress that would not have existed without changes that were made coming in this year. All of these improvements will be recorded for future projects to learn from and follow.

## **Conclusion**

The 1999-2000 school year saw Dokimoi Ergatai improve in its procedure and organizational structure. There is still much to do and improve on in the coming years. For a young and inexperienced organization, DE has had a strong year.

