

# Haiti 2003

One of the five main emphases of Active Christians Today is - "Developing A Global Christian View". We want students to understand that they are a part of a worldwide Kingdom with brothers



and sisters around the world. We want students to take seriously the Great Commission.

We design our ministries throughout the year to try to bring about

these understandings. We emphasize missions in our Campus Worship and Bible studies. Our Sunday night P.P.& C. (Prayer, Praise, and Communion) spends time weekly praying for persecuted Christians

around the world. We schedule visits from mission groups and missionaries during each semester. We also schedule short-term mission trips each school year. Our Spring Break trip goes to an inner city ministry. Our summer trip goes to a Third World Country. We also pray that God will call at least one missionary from each trip to full time missions. So far, God has answered these prayers almost every trip (see "From The Campus, B.G.S.U.").



Beginning last year, we added an additional trip to Haiti. The first trip this year took place in May (16-24). There were seven of us who left Bowling Green at 3:30 am to go to the Detroit Metro Airport. We flew to



Port au Prince, Haiti and onto Port de Paix where we stayed at "In the Father's Hand" Orphanage. We were involved in a variety of ministries. We held two Vacation Bible Schools. One was held for the students in a Christian school

at the local Church. The other was held for local children. The first day of the second VBS fifteen students attended. On the second day, the word got out that we were there and 125 students showed up.

We also held an "End-Of-The-Year" party at the school. We hired a bus, bought food, and took the kids to a beach for the day. While at the orphanage, we held a gigantic birthday party for all of orphans. We had brought in gifts, party supplies, and the ingredients for pizzas.

We filled the eating area with balloons and sang songs. We served 21 pizzas in all. We all had a wonderful time.



We took in the ACT Drama team. We performed the drama in a local Christian high school as well as in alleys and on the street corners downtown. A huge traffic jam resulted as cars, trucks and people stopped to watch.

One of our main ministries was to the children at the orphanage.



Each missionary was responsible for helping with one of children at meal times, bedtime, as well, as spending extra time during the afternoon. The students and the kids became very attached to one another. There were a lot of tears shed as the trip ended.

One of the joys of the trip was a nightly visit by Erik Marshall, a missionary at a local Christian school. Erik came over to lead us in a worship time each night. Erik is an alumnus of B.G.S.U. and A.C.T. He traveled to Haiti three years ago on a short-term missionary trip with A.C.T. We also returned home with one less student. Rebecca Coder stayed behind to spend two

months in Haiti. Rebecca will be graduated in Dec 2003 and will travel to Haiti in January 2004 to serve with "In The Father's Hand" Orphanage.

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Cont.



The second summer trip to Haiti took place in July (7-15). This trip included fourteen people (including students, staff, and

alum from both BGSU and UT; and local high school students). Unlike the first trip, we had some unexpected delays in Miami. As a result, we missed our charter flight from Port au Prince to Port de Paix and had to spend an extra night in Port au Prince.



One of the main emphases of this trip was a Christian basketball camp. We had 60 street boys come to the orphanage compound each day (30 in the morning and 30 in the evening). Both the college

and high school students served as instructors with Mike Coder of Bellefontaine, Ohio (a retired basketball coach) serving as the Director. Each day the campers were put through a series of drills to learn the fundamentals of basketball (soccer is the main sport of the country). All of the campers who did not own a pair of basketball shoes were given a pair to keep. On the second to the last day of the camp, we had a series of basketball games to decide what two teams of each camp would play in the championship game. We also provided a big meal for all of the campers on that second to the last day, as well as a basketball pin that they could proudly wear. We opened the championship game on the last day of camp to the public. What a day that was!



Each day of the camp began with a devotion time and a presentation of the Gospel. On the last day of the camp while all of the players

and public were present, the ACT Drama team presented the Gospel through a drama entitled the "Redeemer". It presents the Gospel in a very simple way for all to understand.

The ACT Drama team was also very busy during this trip.

They not only performed it at the basketball camp, but also on Sunday at the local church and every day throughout the community. Again, the impact was obvious and will last for a long time to come. The local Haitian church has asked us to bring in the necessary supplies next year to



train them to do the drama.

The Drama team also made many home visits where they presented gifts of health and beauty aids, candy, and small toys and also prayed with each family.



On this trip, we brought back Rebecca Coder, the young lady left behind on the first trip. She loved her experience and will be returning next January to serve as a home schoolteacher to the missionary's two children and serving on the staff of the orphanage.

One of the most significant events took place on the night we left Port de Paix. Some of the campers from the basketball camp came by to say goodbye and to also say thanks.

They thanked the basketball coaches for setting such good examples and for teaching them, not only about basketball, but also about Jesus and about life. That alone told us just how successful the trip was.



We have been asked to return next year. Lord willing, we will. We have more short-term missionaries in whom we need to develop "A Global Christian View".