

missions **short** stops

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SHORT TERM MISSIONS COMMITTEE

BELIZE |



BELIZE – A group of 17 adults and teens from **Community EC** (Sinking Spring, PA) traveled to Belize in July. While in Belize the group worked along side of EC missionary Jane Heck; the teens led VBS and the adults completed numerous construction projects. The week was a great success with 165 children in attendance at the VBS, as well as benches repainted, church roof repairs, and a car port built for Jane! The group had a wonderful time in Punta Gorda and grew close to the locals and even closer to God!



CAMBODIA |

CAMBODIA – Michelle Kime (*Lancaster Faith*) and Aiyana Ehrman co-led a group, including Leighann Mennig (*Lancaster Faith*) and Beth Stevenson (*Palmyra First*), to Cambodia, sponsored by Lancaster Bible College and Who Cares? (co-founded by Aiyana Ehrman). There they worked with Cambodian Hope Organization, a ministry working with the difficult problem of child sex trafficking.



COSTA RICA



COSTA RICA – 17 ECers from *Lancaster Faith* (Joel & Tyler Kime, Steph Latschar, Joel Leicy, Billie McDonald, David Mennig, Ron & Amy Seiger, Spring & Victoria Seldomridge, Jim & Tamara Shertzer, Terry Stumpf), *Lancaster Grace* (Jasmine Bradley & Melinda Rance) and *Clarion Riverhill* (Josue & Shannon Barrios) churches, spent 10 days with the EC Church of Costa Rica in July. There we worked on a variety of painting projects and started a handicapped bathroom at one of our churches. We worshipped in 4 of our churches including a new church plant in the Pavas ghetto of San Jose.



COSTA RICA – This past July, members from *Trinity EC* (Boyertown, PA). Church teamed up with fellow believers in Christ through the *e3 Partners Ministry* for a week long trip to Costa Rica. While there we went door-to-door evangelizing and had discipleship meetings with those who were led to Christ that day. By the end of the week we saw over 500 people put their faith in Jesus Christ. Our team included the following:

- Mary Lee Boswell,
- Darbie Boswell,
- Caleb Boswell,
- Diana Smith,
- Ryan Smith,
- Hunter Mancini,
- Kaitlyn Kennedy,
- and Ashley Stout.

HAITI

HAITI – Linda Allen, Carol Fritz and Barbara Jo Metzler from *Trinity EC* (Lititz, PA) Trinity were blessed with another trip to Haiti through *New Missions* in May 2009. There were 3 other women from our area who were a part of our “Just A Little Smile” team. We raised \$13,000 to purchase rice (30,000 lb) to distribute to some of the villages and schools. The team took 12 large suitcases weighing 50 lb. each full of clothing, visited a voodoo village and gave out clothing. We went to a local church service and enjoyed worshipping our Lord with much singing and lots of prayer. In the village of Concrab 3 women accepted Christ as Savior. We are planning another trip in May 2010 and are blessed with 2 new members joining our team for a total of 9 from the Lititz area.





KENYA – Brett Bauer (*Lancaster Faith*, also on GMC Short-Term Mission Committee) spent six weeks in Kenya with *Navigators* focusing on campus discipleship ministry in Nairobi.

MEXICO – This past summer, *Lakeside EC* (Transfer, PA) took a group of 31 people (14 adults and 17 youths) on a short term mission trip from July 25 – August 1, 2009 to the San Quintín Valley of Baja California, Mexico. Our team was hosted by *Missions to Mexico*.

During our mission week, our group was matched up with a local church. We were involved in a construction project, VBS outreach, and community evangelism/visitation.

Each day, while about half of our group was involved in construction, the remaining team members split into two groups that went out into the community. During this time of outreach, we met and prayed with members of the surrounding community, handed out gospel tracts and bibles, and invited the community to the church services and VBS activities that would occur later that day or week. VBS was very popular, with about 100 – 150 children attending each day. Our *Missions to Mexico* hosts presented the gospel as part of VBS and many children gave their lives to Christ. Many members of our mission team had the opportunity to share their testimonies either at a church service and/or during VBS. The trip was a great blessing to the members of our group.



PUERTO RICO – *Zion EC* (Clarks Valley, PA) had a Youth Mission Team of 13 youth and 3 adult leaders go to Caguas, Puerto Rico with *Group*

Workcamps, from July 19-25. We served alongside sixty other youth from churches located across the United States, doing service projects in Caguas and San Juan, PR. Projects included scraping and painting, cleaning and landscaping at local churches, schools, resident homes and the Botanical Gardens in the Rainforest. It was a hard week of work and we made great impacts not just through our projects but also in the lives of those we served. Our team had many opportunities to reveal Christ's love to the people of Puerto Rico in a real and tangible way. Our mission trip was quite an adventure as we experienced extreme heat, a day of 20 inches of rain and flooding, and lots and lots of bug bites. It was also a blessing as God taught each of us lessons of sacrifice and kindness in helping others. Our small church had never before sent a team on a mission trip; organizing and raising financial support for a 16 member mission team to Puerto Rico was a giant step of faith. God's faithfulness was overwhelming to us in that He provided the funds quickly and abundantly and our youth were able to experience a very rewarding mission trip.



● **SYRIA** — Pastor Gus Al-Khal (*Arabic Living EC, New Bethany EC*, Allentown, PA) took a trip to Syria to encourage the churches in April/May of this year. He preached 3 to 5 times per week in several churches in different villages. Many Bible Studies were begun and a new youth group was started. A Christian Center is in the planning stages at this point, and many people accepted Jesus as their Savior. There is so much work to be done!



● **YORK, PA** — July 5- July 10th - Two teens, Alex Ogden and Matthew Perry, and Pastor Ken Ogden, from the *People's EC Church* (East Weissport, PA) spent one week of the summer on a short term mission trip. Our team, coordinated through [Group Work Camp Foundation](#), took us to the inner city of York PA. We were paired with two other teens from churches from New York and North Carolina. While in York, we were assigned to Thatcher Park, and to a city-organized camp for inner city children ages 5-10. Our job was to witness to the children and to show the love of God that is in us.

● **NIAGARA FALLS, NY** — *Bethesda EC* (Reedsville) attended a [Reach Work](#) camp over the summer. It was in Niagra Falls, NY June 28 - July 4 (Jr. & Sr. High). It was attended by 3 Youth leaders and 7 Youths. The theme of the work week was "The one thing" concentrating on Jesus being our all in all. God gave us excellent weather and 1 life came to Christ because of direct intervention with one of our work teams. It truly was a blessing serving him.

● **SALYERSVILLE, KY** — Teens, young adults, and adults from *Trinity EC Church* (Boyertown, PA) traveled to Salyersville in eastern Kentucky to participate in [Christian Endeavor's Work Camp](#) during the last week of July. While some teens and adults completed roofing, siding, electrical, carpentry, and brick work, several other teens worked in the food pantry at the First Church of God in Paintsville, Kentucky. It was quite an experience to see and participate in the day-to-day operation of a food pantry. The teens involved sorted and bagged food, stocked shelves, distributed and delivered food to local housing projects, and picked up donations from local stores and warehouses. A group of teens built food storage shelving in the garage/warehouse.

Teens and adults were humbled by the need of the people who come to the pantry each week to receive a shopping cart filled with food for their families. "When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'"

We saw things that are uncommon in our area. The park was often littered with crack cocaine bags, empty alcohol containers, and covered in graffiti. The conditions not only made us thankful for what we have but also made us realize the hardships faced by the children of the York area. Each teen in our team of five expressed thanks to God for allowing them to be a part of the children's lives, if only for a week.



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