

missions

short stops

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SHORT TERM MISSIONS COMMITTEE

FALL 2007

Blessings through serving...

• **Trinity EC, Harrisburg, PA** – Student Ministry Mission Trip to Bluefield, West Virginia
This year's mission trip was a great trip – with difficult service and a lot of fun with each other. We went to Bluefield, WV, which is an old coal mining town. There is a lot of poverty in the town, and we learned a lot about the history of the mine. For service, some of us spent time with some kids – playing games, doing drama, and helping them learn about God. This was a lot harder than it sounds, because the kids were really poorly behaved. The rest of us spent time at Global Outreach a mission organization, and Camp Praise. Camp Praise is a camp specifically designed for those with disabilities. We spent our time doing repairs, painting and trimming bushes. After work, we had time to hang out, sight see and learn about God. The trip was fun and challenging and we felt blessed to serve the people of Bluefield, WV.



Harrisburg Trinity EC -- challenged and blessed while volunteering in Bluefield, VA

• **Hope Community, Fogelsville, PA** – This past June, Dave Bowers went with 9 students and another chaperone, Vicki Neese, on a short term mission project to Saylersville, Ky. The trip was set up and sponsored by Pa. Christian Endeavor. We worked for a week on two projects. One was helping to remodel the fellowship hall of a small church and then we painted the home of an elderly lady in town. The students, Alora, Alison, Ashley Reinhart, Bryan and Katy Tyndall, Gavin and Sarah Neese and Joe Roth were the workers. We accomplished work,

but maybe as important was that the group grew in their relation with the Lord. It was a tiring and exciting experience - to be repeated next year!"

• **Community EC, Sinking Spring PA** – This past summer the youth group went on a short term missions trip to Hickory, Pennsylvania. The trip was a Group Workcamp and included work such as cleaning homes for the elderly, working at soup kitchens, shorting clothes at World Vision headquarters, painting and so on. The camp was made up of youth groups from all over the nation totaling

DESTINATIONS

AROUND THE CORNER and AROUND THE WORLD...

- Fairbanks, AK
- Pensacola, FL
- Saylersville, KY
- Oakland, MD
- Mississippi
- Hickory, PA
- Mahanoy City, PA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Oliver Springs, TN
- Bluefield, WV
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Haiti
- Hungary
- Punta Gorda, Belize
- San Andres, Guatemala

99 people. Both students and leaders worked together to help the less fortunate and spread the love and hope of Jesus Christ.



First EC, Palmyra, serving in Alaska. See page 4



- **Bridgeville EC Church, Narvon, PA**

– sent 5 youth to Oakland Maryland to do general home repair for elderly residents. All together over 300 youth assembled in the small town from as far away as Washington State. Denise Kalisz and Rick Reifsnnyder from Bridgeville accompanied the youth and were assigned to work crews made up of youth from numerous other churches. All seven reported the Lord's presence at their site!

- **Zion EC Church, Mohnton, PA**

– Elizabeth Price served seven weeks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Elizabeth, the daughter of Pastor Jim and Kathy Price, has just entered her senior year at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN.

This past summer Elizabeth was given the opportunity to serve an eight week mission term with Youth in Mission of the Nazarene Church. Seven weeks of her assignment were with a four-student team assigned to the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The team was asked to serve in a variety of ways including teaching a class in English as a second language, AIDS education, visitation of orphanages, and evangelistic work through local Nazarene churches.

- **Trinity EC, Manheim, PA** – Don & Donna Fry traveled to Pensacola (north western Florida) to help victims of Hurricane Ivan (a year before Hurricane Katrina). The Frys spent 9 days in December with the Church of the Brethren Disaster Response work team to work on homes still not repaired. One volunteer noted "I have learned on our trip is that you really have not lived until you experience being used by God to bless someone else."

- **Lakeside EC, Transfer, PA** – This past April, James Dudt, from Lakeside EC Church, led a group of 15 fellow students from Grove City College on a short term trip to San Andres, Guatemala. The group traveled to Hogar de Vida, an orphanage in a remote village, where they worked on buildings, ministered to children, and performed outreach to the local community. The group interacted with local churches and pastors and ministered in surrounding villages by washing and cutting hair, presenting the gospel, and bringing necessities such as soap, shampoo, and vitamins. Through the gifts of family, friend and local congregations, the group was able to bring approximately 1,500 pounds of donations which

included children's clothing, blankets, sheets, medicines, personal hygiene items, school supplies, and toys.

Earlier this year Betsy Dennis and Luke Snyder traveled on a short term missions trip to Rancho Ebenezer, a children's ranch in Honduras where missionaries Ed and Val Schubert serve. While there they improved the school building by painting rooms and sanding and working on new bookshelves for the library. They also interacted with the children at the ranch and performed community outreach. Both Betsy and Luke grew in their faith and were especially blessed by participating in a Spanish worship service that was filled with passionate worship and fervent praise for our Lord.

- **Ebenezer EC, Brownstown, PA** – We had 4 folks travel to Oliver Springs, TN from July 9-15. They were part of the REACH Work camp.

- **Trinity EC, Lititz, PA** – From May 5th-12th, 2007. Carol Fritz, Linda Allen, Barbara Jo Metzler went to Haiti with New Missions. Another trip is planned for April 5th-12th, 2008 with the same crew plus Erin Harnly (teen), also from Trinity.



- **Faith EC, Lancaster, PA** – "Our missions trip to Philadelphia this past summer was an incredible experience. It was an immediate shock to see the poverty that some people live in. Hearing about it is one thing, but seeing it and living among it is something new altogether. Our Sidewalk Sunday Schools were a great way of ministering to children. Crowd sizes were varied, but we were fortunate enough to generate large amounts of kids and even adults sometimes! This being my first missions trip other than work camp, I really did have to step out of my comfort zone. As the week went on though, it became easy to share God's word with anyone who would hear it. This was an amazing experience, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

– Justin Crouse, Conestoga Valley High School, Senior

- **Great Lakes EC work team** – July 19- 29th, 2007 a team of 18 mostly high school and college age students traveled to Punta Gorda, BELIZE. Our mission - to encourage and help Jane Heck. The team was lead by Dina Frye - Bethel EC Church, Dixon, IL; Kenny Paoli - Kimball Ave EC Church, Chicago, IL and Kate Obert - Grace EC Church, Afolkey, IL. Pastor Dave Bailey from our Hooppole IL EC Church was an additional chaperone. Also included in the trip was: Abby Frye, Matt Smith, Daniel Saunders, Cory Morris, Autumn Lehman, Abbie Willey - Bethel EC, Dixon, IL Kristin Obert and Samantha Koch - Grace EC, Afolkey, IL Geoff Graham and Lance Moring - Emmanuel EC, Cedarville, IL Weston Fusselman - Cottage Grove EC, Ohio Jessica Carr - Akron First EC, Akron, Ohio Tyler Mairs - Rockford, IL and Lauren Peters - Wautoma, Wisconsin. All but four of the team were twenty-one years old or younger, making it a unique EC missions trip.



Team from Lancaster Faith-- sharing God's Word in Philadelphia

The team hosted a daily Vacation Bible School each weekday at the Nazarene Church. The average daily attendance was 165 children. The team also did some work for the community of Punta Gorda. They painted a city park, painted a door for the pastor and built a walkway over a flooded ditch for an elderly lady. For the Garifuna church, the team built four large benches and 7 small benches and then sanded and painted them all. Mattress covers were sewn for the hostel they were staying in.

- **Bethany EC Church, Creswell, PA** – Our youth and a few adults did a week long mission trip to Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania with PA Christian Endeavor. They helped to restore homes damaged in a flood. The highlights of trip

were found in good times, wonderful worship, God-sightings, and the willingness of one of the home owners to receive Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. A group of our girls were on that local Christian radio station being interviewed about their experiences during that week. We look forward to another “adventure” again next year.

- **California Bethany EC Church, Morgantown, PA** – sent four of her congregants to the two work camps in AK--Mike Titus attended Victory Bible Camp in May and Glen and Nelsa Taylor and Gus Merlin worked at LIWA in August. When Nelsa approached her husband about the possibility of attending Camp liwa, Glen wasn't convinced that his particular talents would be needed and Nelsa had to do some convincing. Upon arrival, one of the first needs that was presented was the desire to have a bus painted---Glen works for New Holland as a painter---

Reflections from Hungary: faith in action

- **Horizon Church, Allentown, PA** – (Bethanie Shoemaker) – *This past July I went on my 4th short term (10 days) missions trip to Word of Life Hungary. I was joined by another member of Horizon Church to assist with teaching English at the summer youth camp in Toalmas, Hungary. I was especially touched by the dedication/testimony campfires. At the campfires the campers are given the opportunity to speak to the camp and share about their faith walk. I am surprised each year at the willingness and eagerness of the campers to share their faith in front of their peers. I have grown so much through my short term missions experiences I would like to encourage others to go and experience missions.*

- **Horizon Church, Allentown, PA** – (Pam Johnson) – *There is so much to reflect on from this trip. The kids we taught were in many ways just like the kids here with only a few differences (like strange breakfast food). Their backgrounds were all different, some had broken families, some had summer vacation homes while others lived in government housing, some were extended families and they all spoke at least two other languages. Certainly I will not forget Bogie who did not speak any English at all. She stood on the outside, watching the group play games and when we asked if she wanted to join she positively beamed and joined right in. I think sometimes this is how our Father sees us; we may not understand it all but we have a glimpse of how good it will be to join Him, and no doubt we will beam as well as Bogie. I am so grateful to have been a part of this team and feel truly blessed from the experience.*

surprise. The second need that was discussed was a desire to have a ditch dug--"we have a skid loader but no one to run it," said the staff. Guess who knew how to run a skid loader! So touched was Glen by the Lord's using his particular giftedness that he and Nelsa are planning a return trip in 2009. Praise God!!!!

- **Grace EC Church, East Petersburg, PA** – Pastor Jerry Berrier went on a short term mission trip with the group from Lancaster Faith EC down to Mississippi to help rebuild.

- **Cottage Grove EC Church, Akron, OH** – This year, on July 19, Weston Fusselman got on a plane and left his home in Ohio to travel to Belize to stay for a ten day missions trip with our EC missionary, Jane Heck. In Belize City, Belize, the whole team got together for the first time. The team consisted of two people from Ohio, fifteen from Illinois, one from Wisconsin, and two from Belize (included Jane). All but four of the team were twenty-one years old or younger, making it a unique EC missions trip. It was also only the second team sent to Jane since she moved to Belize. After landing in Belize City, Weston, along with the team, traveled by bus to the town of Punta Gorda, where Jane lives. There, they put on a Vacation Bible School from Monday to Friday. By the end of the week, the attendance at VBS was 225 children from ages three to mid-teens. It was considered to be a great success. During



the country of Belize. Weston can't wait for another opportunity to travel to Belize and do more of God's work.

- **First EC, Palmyra, PA** – On July 21st, 2007, First EC Church in Palmyra sent nine individuals to Fairbanks, Alaska to serve at Camp Li-Wa. The group, which consisted of 5 youth and 4 adults, met up with other ECers and served the folks at Camp Li-Wa by helping with event parking, washing windows, cutting down dead/dying trees, cleaning stables, mowing grass, and helping with food preparation. They were even able to help with more extensive projects like painting the camp bus, adding insulation to a section of the septic system, and installing paneling for a reception area in the new barn.

The service projects took place during the Camp's busy summer season, and so in the midst of their service, the EC team was able to observe how the staff and administration work together to deliver the message of the Gospel to the campers. As an added bonus to the trip, the group enjoyed bonding together and taking in the wonderful Alaskan scenery.



the afternoons and on the first Saturday of the trip, Weston and the team worked on various projects for the church they stayed at, the town, and for Jane. Building and painting benches, painting Jane's classroom, building a small bridge, painting the pastor's

door, and making mattress covers were some of the projects they completed while they were there. Weston and the rest of the Belize team had an amazing time while they were there and God proved to be with them the whole time. He worked in their lives as well as the lives of many citizens of

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Trinity EC, Boyertown PA** – two mission projects for 2008: work camp with P.A.C.E. In July 27 – August 2; Missions trip to Ecuador, South America. Dates are still being worked on.
- **Trinity EC, Myerstown PA** – June 13-28, 2008; Youth missions trip to Brazil with OMS, and Dave and Conce Roof.
- **Work teams to Alaska:** Victory Bible Camp – May 10-24; Camp LIWA – July 19-August 2, August 2-16.



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