

Short Term Missions Trips 2006

Team Leader Reports

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THAILAND

LocationThailand
Date9/17-9/24/05; 5/10-5/20/06; 10/20-10/30/06
Team LeaderJim Panico, Diane Dorn
OrganizationNeighborhood Church

◆ **Trip 1: September 17-24, 2005**

Malcolm Cash, Steve Savage, and Jim Panico traveled to Khaolak, Thailand to meet with the church members, pastors, and the architect. They worked on engineering, design, and the construction planning.

◆ **Trip 2: May 10-20, 2006**

Malcolm Cash, Todd Teyler, Steve Savage, Jim Panico, Larry Smith, and Brian Kalsbeek traveled to Khaolak, Thailand, to join in the ground breaking, and building the foundation for the worship center. Eight of the sixteen outside footings and columns were built during this trip.

◆ **Trip 3: October 20-30, 2006**

Mike Dorn, Diane Dorn, and Jim Panico traveled to Khaolak, Thailand. Mike and Jim worked on the steel wide-framed truss structure, working with local workers, supervising layouts and welding, and landing the trusses on the columns with a crane. Diane worked with the missionaries, going into the jungle and working at the church preschool.

Note: *Photos on next page.*



THAILAND
2005-2006



MEXICO

Location Mexico
Date Spring Break, 2006
Team Leader ... Chad Olson
Organization ... Neighborhood Church
Team 50+ high school students

The Omega Mexico Mission Trip 2006 was an incredible time of ministry and growth. We took a team of over 50 high school students to the village of Santa Isabel for a week of ministry.

This year we again provided a children's vacation Bible school and women's ministry, but we also added a new area of ministry outreach: a community service construction team.

The construction team built a three room house in an amazing 4 days. The team worked extremely hard and finished the home for a very needy family who had a severely disabled son.

The Mexico trip was an incredible opportunity to serve and share the great news of Jesus Christ with the people of Mexico. Over 40 people made decisions for Christ and many more heard and were impacted by the various ministries. Praise God for the lives that were forever changed and the opportunity to be part of what God is doing in Mexico. Thank you for your prayers and support.



UGANDA

Location Uganda
Date 5/15-6/30/06
Team Leader ... Katy Vold
Organization ... Master's College

I went to Uganda, Africa in the summer of 2006 with a team from my school, The Master's College. We were there from the middle of May until the end of June. The purpose of our trip was multi-faceted. Our first priority was aiding Shannon Hurley, a missionary in Uganda, and his family with tasks around their home and in their ministry. Shannon is the founder of *Sufficiency of Scripture Ministries*, an organization that focuses on Scriptural pastoral training.



The Hurley family also oversees an orphanage of about 50 children. Mr. Hurley's home rests just outside of Kampala, Uganda's capital city. From this base point, our team would extend out to other areas of the country for weeks at a time to participate in evangelism to students in schools, families in villages, and anyone else along the way. By the end of our trip, we had spoken the good news of the gospel to hundreds, possibly thousands, of people. The Lord blessed us with overall safety and health and, more importantly, a deepened sense of what Christ's grace, love, and sacrifice really mean.



As I reiterated the gospel message countless times every day, God impressed on my heart an overwhelming passion for his truth, infused in my mind a broader love for lost people, and opened my eyes to the unmatched grandeur of His glory and the fathomless depth of His grace. Praise the Lord for the hearts He called to Himself and for the people whose lives were touched through His ministry in Uganda during the summer of 2006!

COSTA RICA

Location Costa Rica
Date 6/15-6/30/06
Team Leader ... Bob Okamura
Organization ... Footsteps Missions
Team Andrea Carstensen

We traveled to two areas in Costa Rica. First, we served for a week in Sarapiquí, a region in Northeastern Costa Rica near the rainforest. It rained every single day, sometimes a downpour. We were the guests of Pastor Rodrigo and his wife who lead a small C&MA church of about 30 people. We shared the Gospel



with our Vacation Bible School (VBS) program at a local Christian school for first through sixth graders, featuring teaching, questions & answers, games, crafts, and skits. Our interpreter, Steve Bush from Honduras, was also a musician and he led sing-a-longs everywhere we went. One day, we boated up the Rio San Juan to several very poor rural schools. (We saw a couple of 10-12 foot alligators up close and personal along the way!) The schools, located on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, were very receptive to our VBS program. A lot of the children come over the border from Nicaragua to attend



school. We gave hygiene kits to the kids, with items such as toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and band-aids. On this day, the local pastor's wife was talking to one of the workers in the kitchen, and she gave her heart to Christ, right there.

The second area we served in was called Colima, a suburb of the capital city of San Jose. Our host in Colima was Pastor Jose (right). We did some work around the C&MA church there, including painting the inside of the church. We also did VBS at a government day care center.



Overall, we worked with over 150 children. We gave away a whole bunch of *Most Important Story* booklets in Spanish. We also brought soccer equipment donated by the Castro Valley Youth Soccer League. We gave the equipment to the two churches, and said to the kids: "If you want to use this equipment, you have to go to church." We also gave a new acoustic guitar, donated by Gerry Mainer, to be used for worship at the C&MA church in Colima.

MALAWI

Location Malawi, Africa
Date 6/19-7/6/06
Team Leader ... Chad Olson
Organization ... Neighborhood Church
Team Sara Olson, Erica Leifur,
Eric Blevins, Jordan Blevins, Kelly Kaufman,
Malachi Mata, Jessica Tounger, Kevin Parr,
Terrence Dalton, Tim Strysko

The Omega Malawi, Africa trip set out with two goals. The first was to partner with a local Christian ministry called YouthCare to provide a children's ministry for approximately 300 children. God exceeded our expectations. He gave us the opportunity to share the gospel with and minister to over 500 children, many of which were orphaned and/or homeless. We estimate over 100 children made decisions for Christ. Praise God! The ministries consisted of a daily 2 ½ hour afternoon camp. During the camp we sang worship songs, played games, provided a meal, provided crafts, and taught a Bible lesson. The students on our team all took turns teaching the Bible lesson for the day. One of the most amazing experiences our team shared was worshipping with the Malawian children, who sang and danced to the Lord with such enthusiasm. As an added blessing our team had the opportunity to help establish a new outreach ministry to children in a high-risk neighborhood called "Area 36." Please pray that the new ministry will thrive and lead many children and families to Christ.



The second goal of our trip was to assist our partner dental team from Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City. We helped everywhere we could each morning in the



free dental clinic. The clinic treated over 300 patients and provided in depth oral hygiene training to over 800 people. The total estimated dollar value of dental procedures provided exceeds \$120,000. It is amazing what God can do in just eight clinic days. Our students each had the opportunity to man various posts in the clinic including assisting the dentists, sterilizing instruments, and taking and developing x-rays.

CHINA

Location China
Date 7/15-7/29/06
Team Leader ... Randy Odom
Organization ... 10-40 Connect
Team Alex Absher,
Steve & Yong Argilla, Richard & Rosa
Chapman, Gayle Gutierrez, Krystal
Odom, Linda Sae Jang

We left here on July 15 with a team of 37. There were nine of us from Neighborhood Church. We met up with one another at San Francisco International Airport and embarked on a 12+ hour flight to Beijing.



For Krystal and myself, the highlight of the trip was the opportunity we had of reconnecting with a young woman who had been our student on a previous trip. “J,” who is an extremely bright and enthusiastic young lady with excellent English skills, is from a family with a disabled sister. Our hearts were broken for her and her family as we saw first hand how difficult it is to care for a disabled child in China. In a society with virtually no support structure for the disabled,

One day while sitting in an optical clinic with two other students, Krystal was able to share the Good News with J in Mandarin. Though she had never heard the Good News before, J listened with an open heart because of her relationship with Krystal. We also visited J’s home where we met her mother and two sisters. J had initially been reluctant



for us to visit her home because she thought we would be afraid of her disabled sister. While in her home we shared with them that we believe God gave this special sister to them because He needed a family whom He could trust to love and provide well for her. How we pray that the work of God may one day be manifested in this family as they come to Him in saving faith! Please join us in prayer for J and her family.

CAMBODIA & GUATEMALA

Location Cambodia, Guatemala
Date..... Cambodia: 6/30-7/12/06
Guatemala: 8/19-8/27/06
Team Leader ... Tom & Holly Love
Organization ... Neighborhood Church
Team..... Kathleen Brandon, Christine Du

We traveled to serve for 10 days each in Cambodia and Guatemala in the summer of 2006. As part of a medical and dental missions team, we bring much needed oral surgical care to the poorest of the poor. We use portable dental equipment to set up a temporary dental clinic, usually in a school or a church.

My part, as an oral surgeon, is mostly to remove bad teeth. On an average day, I treat 50 people, but the number has been as high as 80 in one day. We try to treat as many people as we possibly can, but our clinic is always overflowing with people who need care. For these impoverished people, there is generally either no dental care available, or no transportation or money available to take advantage of dental care if it even is available. We line the people up, administer anesthesia to four or five people at a time, let the anesthetic take effect, then work through the line. Holly assists, helping to care and pray for the patients, especially the frightened or agitated ones. Most people are unusually stoic because they've experienced so much hardship in their lives.

While we provide the health care, we partner with a local missionary or pastor to provide both advertising and any evangelistic activity.

What is so moving is that in many cases we can't speak the language of the people we're working with, but we're one in Christ. There's a bonding that happens through the Holy Spirit. And, we've learned that you can't out give God; we receive so much in blessings and in the gratitude of the people.

Cambodia: The combined team, both locals and Americans (including a support team from a Southern California Korean church), provided both medical and dental care. Kathleen Brandon and Christine Du helped the local missionary physician treat many, many patients with medications we brought, with prescription drugs, vitamins, and over-the-counter pain medications from Costco filling a big need.

Guatemala: A combined team from Northern California (6), Wisconsin (5), and Pennsylvania (2) provided dental care, over-the-counter medications, and a children's learning program.

BELGIUM

Location Belgium
Date 6/30-7/11/06
Team Leader ... Paul Keim
Organization ... Neighborhood Church
Team Guy Blatt, James Teyler

Last June, I charged headlong into the biggest, longest endeavor away from home in my life. First leaving my front door at five in the morning on Thursday, June 29, I left for Brussels, Belgium with two brothers in Christ, Paul Keim and James Teyler. We flew out from San Francisco Airport to New York, then arrived in Belgium the morning of June 30. From then until July 11, we stayed in a hotel called a Youth Hostel, which is geared toward the younger European generation. The last four days of the trip were spent in a church-apartment with a man named Alester.



Our purpose for visiting Brussels was to help out with a project called “Serve the City.” There were about 125 volunteers, mostly from the States, who worked on 30 different projects throughout the city. My project in particular was to organize and help run a center for refugees, widows and anyone else with a physical need. It consisted of getting rid of appliances and sweeping floors until the basement of the shelter was in good condition.



Working in the basement for five days, I met a man named Memet, who was in charge of this area. He, and another man named Phillip, were greatly touched by our efforts to help this non-profit organization.

On the plane home, I sat by a one year old girl and her mother, who worked at a special needs school in New York. Throughout the flight I was blessed to converse with her and to offer her some assistance with the restless baby’s needs.

Towards the end of our flight, I opened the Bible to John 3:16, which she read with curiosity. I have little knowledge of its influence on her life, but I pray for the Truth to be revealed to her.

By Guy Blatt, High School Intern

UKRAINE

Location Ukraine
Date 7/31-8/31/06
Team Leader ... Ruth Dyer
Organization ... Encouragement Int'l.

I went to the former Soviet Union again this past summer and it was my fourth trip! I was excited to continue growing the relationships that I've been building for the past three years.

We didn't really have a typical schedule. Usually we had breakfast in the morning, and then a teaching time with the Belarussian team on Revelation and the end times (they really loved that and never wanted to stop discussing and learning). Then we would have lunch, then go out to the city to do evangelism in the capital city of Ukraine, Kiev. Sometimes it was in conjunction with a church in the area, sometimes it was just street evangelism, and sometimes it was just sightseeing, which gave the American part of the team some time for friendship evangelism and discipleship.



It is so encouraging to see how many of these girls (high school and college age) have grown in so many ways over the last couple years and so amazing to watch them do some street evangelism. Once we happened upon a man in the street singing *It is Well With My Soul* and us Americans sang along and helped him with his evangelism. He was from the Gideons. It is so amazing how God works!!!



We went to a church and it was so encouraging to see them pray with power for the churches in Russian. Then they prayed with tears, circling around the Belarussians, for the church there. Next, they knelt and prayed for revival for Ukraine. Last, they rose to their feet together in an impromptu song of praise.

In coming I was so excited just to give my teammates all hugs and encourage them and join with them in a bit of ministry and although there was not as much "organized" ministry as we had expected, I felt it was very "successful" in just the ministry of encouragement.

CAMBODIA

Location Cambodia, Vietnam
Date 11/6-11/15/06
Team Leader ... Mark Teyler
Organization ... Neighborhood Church
Team Dan Kaufman, Verne Teyler, Roland Williams

Thanks for your encouragement and prayers for our trip to Cambodia and Vietnam. The trip was very successful in many aspects. We visited the church headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. We talked to many church leaders and people who are church workers throughout Vietnam. Persecution is very real in Vietnam. We heard many stories of beatings and imprisonment for people in the church. The church in Vietnam is reaching out to Vietnamese people in Cambodia.

There are millions of Vietnamese refugees trapped on the rivers in Cambodia with little hope for the future. World Serve has placed eight boat chapels and schools on the rivers of Cambodia to minister to these people. We went to four of these boat chapels in Cambodia. We gave a program for about 50 to 75 kids on each boat. Let me tell you, these boats were loaded down!

At the end of every program an invitation was given to come to faith in Christ. At total of 150 kids accepted the invitation. We also participated in a worship service on Sunday on one of the boats. At the end of that service people were asked if they would like us to pray for them. Many came to us for prayer. What a privilege it was for us to pray for these people. It was one of the most touching moments of the trip.

We visited four land churches also. We were able to present our program at two of the churches to over 100 kids at each church. It was a hot, wild, and crowded time, but the message went out and many kids responded. We purchased a generator, and were able to show “The Most Important Story” video to over 450 people. We left the generator, projector and DVD player in Cambodia, along with several Vietnamese DVDs.



MEXICO

Location Mexico
Date 12/24-12/26/06
Team Leader ... Roland Williams
Organization ... Neighborhood Church

This year's trip was rather short, only three days long. When we got to the church, we had missed the service so it was right to work. Kids were already lined up waiting for us with those ever so happy faces, just as carefree as they could be. There was a massive amount of people at the church long before we arrived. It was so nice to see that some of the same kids from last year, and their families, had returned to the church.

Just as before, the team emptied all the vehicles of gifts into the church Sunday school room, where they would be distributed to the public. Over 400 gift shoeboxes filled the room in minutes, and just in time for all the eager people outside. Like clock work we handed out the gifts to fit who ever was next in line. Unfortunately, we ran out of gifts for adult women. In a mad dash, the team did their best to try and find anything a lady would like so that no one would leave empty handed. No one left without a gift, thanks to God's mercy.



The most touching experience this trip was when one of the youngest team members, Paul Stuart, gave up his OWN sweatshirt to one of the boys who didn't have a jacket at all! That same boy's mother was so touched, she gave every one a hug and a kiss on the cheek just show us a small portion of her gratitude. Paul touched my heart in so many ways.

----Tre'Bion Williams (son of Roland Williams)