



The following articles are written by home school students from across the United States, touring with **ACTION Impact Missions'** "California" Road School Mission trip—Spring 2005

Equipping the Troupes

This was my first mission trip with *AIM*, and I had no idea what to expect, except I knew it would be intense! I am going to go over what I thought training camp would be like, how it was, and why I enjoyed training camp.

I did not have a lot of ideas as to what training camp was. A friend had



given me a hint as to what it would be like; he said I would be learning mimes and working on the curriculum all day long. I thought we would practice songs, work on mime technique, and get to know the other team members.

We worked on 14 songs, but I am told that on other mission trips participants do about 30 songs! This was still a lot considering training camp was three and a half days long when the other mission trips have seven days. Each day started at 9:00 AM and went until 9:00 PM. In addition to mime technique and songs, we worked on the Bible studies which we would be teaching at workshops in CA. The work was sometimes difficult, but we knew it was for a good reason.

Now, why did I like training camp so much? Well, I normally like a challenge and this certainly qualified as one. Another reason was that this training camp really pushed me out of my comfort zone. I think training camp was one of the best things I have ever done. It felt good to work long and hard. I actually wish

it could have lasted longer!

Now I understand what training camp really is! I found that the growth and stretching was more than worth the long days and difficult practices.

- Zach Burch, age 14
Forsyth, MO

Faith Has Made You Well

AIM4Faith in San Diego was the first team we worked with on our mission trip. It was our very first training opportunity and took place at the end of our training camp.

This team is rather large with 21 members. All of the participants were ready and willing to learn and very patient with us. We were a little unsure of ourselves as we did our first Bible study, but to our relief, everyone thought it went great.

Our team started out well together. It was awesome to see how we all fit together so well. You could compare how we worked together as to the workings of an engine. Without one part of the engine, the whole thing wouldn't work. We did a good job together that first workshop, and it was wonderful to see how God was beginning to fit us all together for His good work.

AIM4Faith was a pleasure to work with. When we left San Diego, we knew God had given us all the right gifts to have a great mission trip.

- Johanna Turner age : 16
Pine Mountain, CA

A Speaking Silent Witness?

*"Repent now you evil Sinner!"
"What?"
"Don't you understand? You're going to die! TURN OR BURN! FLIP OR FRY!!!"*

This, as you may know, is not the best way to lead someone to a saving knowledge of Christ! But sadly, there are many Christians doing just that, turning people away from God's message and giving Christianity a bad name. (And a scary one too!) *ACTION Impact Missions* has decided to step up to the plate and set a new standard of excellence!

This year's California mission trip taught an effective, conscience based approach to evangelism, developed by Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron. Titled "The Way of the Master," this approach deals straight with a persons heart and conscience, instead of their intellect, book smarts, or scientific knowledge.

We take the conscience approach because people can argue about evolution all day, while no one can really argue with their own conscience.



Instead of trying to prove the Bible to them or prove that God exists, we show them that they need a Savior because of their sins. This is a proven and effective method of evangelism used all over the world.

However, methods, classes, books and studies are completely useless unless people are willing to use them

and be bold enough to tell someone about Christ. Many times people get stuck into thinking that setting a good example is enough. *"I don't really have to share my faith, I'll just show them I'm a good person by my life, and doing good deeds."*

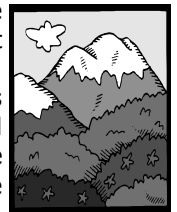
But we were called to go and *make* disciples, not just sit around and be a good example to everyone! It is time for all of us "Silent Witnesses" to come out of our bubble of silence and go build God's kingdom with words!

Nick Byrd, age 16
Bakersfield, CA

Faith in the Mountain

We are on an adventure that will stretch, touch, and change our lives forever! What does the destination of this adventure hold for us? Relationships that will last a life-time? A lot of learning, stretching, and growing? Are you ready? Grab your bags and climb aboard for an adventure you wont forget!

Diving along the interstate, our adventure stretched out ahead of us. Wild flowers were all throughout the desert as we left the valley.



We praised God for His creation for many hours as we climbed into the pine-covered mountains. Finally, we pulled the van into a parking lot.

We were in a little town called Pine Mountain. Several families who are involved with *AIM* came out to welcome us.

We began to set up our props and equipment for the workshop. Soon, the young people started to arrive. Many new faces were seen, and old friends welcomed us. Before long we were all family, laughing and talking together. We knew the workshop would be an excellent time of stretching and growing.

That first day we began with the normal Bible study and some mime technique, then we launched into the mime pieces. Some of the pieces we had to offer this year were new and a little more difficult for the young people to learn. A few of the old songs were reviewed, and we also critiqued some of the songs they had developed themselves.

We heard from the students that they were challenged to make themselves available to be used by God, to put aside the excuses commonly made by people, and to step up to obey God's calling for their lives. All throughout the workshop the students were challenged and stretched.

On the last day as we were thinking of the sad departure soon to be made, we were given another ministry opportunity. A family in the area needed help! We jumped at the opportunity to serve with smiles on our faces. There was a need for house work and yard work. The family had been going through a lot of health issues and so the help was very much appreciated. We worked for several hours clearing brush, chopping wood, doing laundry and cooking. God used us to meet a need and taught us to be servants, there for our brothers and sisters when trouble comes. It was an awesome growing experience.

This workshop turned out to be an adventure that did indeed stretch, touch, and change lives forever. I believe

all that happened will be remembered, and though there are some people we will not see again, God used the time shared together to accomplish His work. Even though we had to leave, the adventure continued as we moved to the next mission field.

- Daniel Reyes, age 18
Apple valley, CA

The Mid-Point of our Mission

The northernmost *AIM* team in California is located in Sacramento, the capitol of the state, with its high-rise buildings, historic Victorian architecture, capitol building and more, all mixed with many office buildings and small businesses. The urban city, the suburbs, and the country housing weave together, intertwining a various assortment of people in one town.



California is one of the most popular states in our country and even around the world. Many nations look to California for their style and even their moral code. Some see the state as a bastion of free thinking, full of adventuring liberalists and pioneering men and women who would settle for nothing less than the enlightened freedoms found in the golden state.

As Christians, we know that a land like CA needs pioneers of the faith. We know that God has a place in Sacramento; without His power it would not even exist. Our prayer for this city is that the ministry done within its borders would not be fruitless, and that the Christians within its vicinity would recognize what the body of believers could do to influence the world.

Traveling to the great city of

Sacramento, we began to get tired of seeing so much road. That drive was our longest van traveling period. As we came nearer the city we put aside our tired attitudes and were encouraged to pray for the city to be blessed and for the Christians who live there to be encouraged.

We looked out the windows of our humble van and noticed many curious people watching us: the homeless, business people, shopkeepers, children, teachers, politicians, and lawyers. One little boy I saw looked out his car window and read the title "*ACTION MINISTRY*" on our van. He had a puzzled look on his face as if he had no idea what a ministry was. I pray that he and all others in Sacramento will soon know the effects of Christ working through His people.

- Becky Turner, age 21
Branson, MO

A Breath of Encouragement

Grace in *ACTION* was enthusiastic, excited and ready to learn! Being near the end of the mission trip, some of us were tired and home sick. But Grace in *ACTION* was very grateful that we stopped there, and it made us excited to be a part of it all. They made a large blue poster thanking us for coming. It was very sweet and encouraging to us. All the team members, including some parents, kept expressing how wonderful it was to have us with them. They made us feel right at home and very welcome.

Grace in *ACTION* had many new team members who were able to catch hold of the vision for the ministry by having the workshop. They saw that God is ready and wants to use them; they just have to be willing and obedient to His call. It doesn't matter that we are ordinary, through Him any of

us can cause a change in the world. The team members caught hold of the fire and excitement, and now they want to go and spread the gospel message to this lost world! I hope and pray they don't loose hold of that passion.

The two day workshop went by quickly. The fact that they wanted us to stay was encouraging to us; but even in the time we had I learned a number of things by their example. They all had the Lord's joy shining through them and they showed His love to us all. We also had a rare occasion on the last day of the workshop. Johanna



Turner had her sixteenth birthday! We all bought her presents and a birthday cake. We all wanted her to have a wonderful day, and she was very blessed.

The Ventura workshop was a refreshing privilege which breathed life, joy and excitement back into all of us. We felt honored to teach them, and it was a blessing to serve them. They were definitely a model of excellence in encouragement.

First Thessalonians 5:11 says: "*Therefore encourage one another and build up one another.*" This is what they were true examples of. Proverbs 16:24 states: "*Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*" We were definitely encouraged and renewed as we headed for the next stop.

- Lizz Fowler, age 18
San Diego, CA

Equipping the Saints

Why would 40 teenagers file into a building, unless they were up to no good? Well, if you had happened to peak into

the meeting area you would have seen the 40 young people teaching and learning how to evangelize through mime, drama, dance, and speech. The California Mission Trip Team was in Apple Valley to train the *AIM* teams of Christ In *ACTION* (CIA), Truth In *ACTION* (TIA), and Faith By Impression (FBI).

On Sunday, the 27th of February, the CA Mission Trip Team pulled into the parking lot of the Sunrise Christian Fellowship Church to train the first group of young people which were divided into two teams: FBI and TIA. We taught these two teams mime technique and the mime skit that portrayed the enormous sacrifice Christ made on our behalf so that we should have a burden to bear our own cross daily and to share God's LOVE STORY (which is the name of the song). Another song we taught spoke clearly that it is OUR TURN NOW to stand up and resist the devil's easy but corrupted way of life. They also learned we must follow the examples of the great models of excellence in the Bible and be A MAN YOU WOULD WRITE ABOUT. Finally we gave the instructions for THIS BLOOD that Jesus shed on the cross for the sins of the world.

From the 28th of Feb through the 2nd of March we taught the CIA team a new song that gave THE MESSAGE, encouraging the viewers to say "Lord here am I, I will be the one". We trained CIA to do a representation of someone who wants a FAITH LIKE THAT of great people in the Bible, and the dramatized song that boldly challenges believers to GO spread the word of God and make disciples of all nations.

Besides teaching the new pieces, we critiqued a few of their own songs. We held stroll miming and public speaking classes that helped

CIA hone their skills, mime better on the streets, and be more effective when sharing their faith. My favorite class was the evangelism class that taught us how to lead someone to Christ. I am convinced these classes helped not only the team being taught but also our CA Mission Trip Team to better understand and share our faith.

The CA Team also gave Bible studies that correlated to the mime skits we taught. We taught the students about their calling from God, the work there is in the world, and the responsibility they have to be serving God. I firmly believe the Holy Spirit convicted our mission team as well as the CIA team. I know that I am still convicted to answer God's calling for my life.



As I said in the beginning, 40 teens seen together may be a scary thought for anyone, but even though they may seem to be up to no good, you may want to take a closer look at what some Jesus-loving young people can really do to this upside-down and inside-out world.

IT'S OUR TURN NOW to share God's LOVE STORY with A FAITH LIKE THAT of A MAN YOU WOULD WRITE ABOUT to GO and proclaim THE MESSAGE of THIS BLOOD that Jesus shed on the cross for the sins of the world.

- Andy Abbott, age: 14
San Diego, CA

The End of the Beginning

We were at the end of the road with nowhere left to go. The bottom of the rope, we were about to fall off the end of our mission trip. We were at our last stop on the Mission Trip, and we could not believe

the trip was nearly over. We had been through so much. We had become great friends and bonded together as a team. Now it was time to go home. Though we were sad to be leaving, we were ready and willing to jump back into the ministry in our own towns.

I had never been on a mission trip before, but legend has it that when we are done with the last workshop, we go out to eat at Kentucky Fried Chicken. Not this time! Instead, the Youth In *ACTION* team director opened her house and decided to make us a very special dinner. With the help of two other moms from the area, our hostess turned the living/dining room into a gorgeous room of candle light and fine china. It made us feel very special. We ate a delicious meal and had our crazy paper plate awards.

For those who don't know what paper plate awards are, each person makes one paper plate award for all the other members on the mission trip. First you write onto the paper plate one thing you know each person was a model of excellence in, then you write something silly about what each person is most likely to become.



When it was all over we all went to our host homes. The next morning we met one last time for our "goodbyes". It was so sad; everyone was crying. We were all going home! It was the end of the 2005 California Mission Trip, but the beginning of the next step in what God has for our lives. As we all taught in our Bible studies, listen for and obey God's calling in your lives. I know I am, How about you?

- Matt Byrd, age 13
Bakersfield, CA

ACTION's California Mission Trip Members

Andy Abbot, age 14
San Diego, CA

Matt Byrd, age 13
Bakersfield, CA

Nick Byrd, age 16
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Zach Burch, age 14
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Lizz Fowler, age 17
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Daniel Reyes, age 19
Pine Mountain, CA

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Becky Turner, age 20
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Driver / Chaperone
Adena Delilo
Branson, MO

Director
Jennifer Stafford
Branson, MO

THANK YOU

For reading *AIM's* ROAD-REPORT!
If you would like to learn more about this exciting ministry

OR

If you would like to bring this *ACTION*-packed ministry to your area

OR

If you would like to travel with this life-changing ministry

OR

If you would like to commit your *time, talent and/or treasure* to help this powerful ministry continue to go to the frontlines

THEN...

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