

ROAD-REPORT



The following articles are written by home school students from across the United States, traveling with *ACTION* Impact Missions' **East Coast Road School Mission Trip— Fall 2005**

Our Adventure Begins

Definition of training camp: The first of five weeks of bone-tiring, brain-numbing, hair-pulling, prayer-empowering, character-stretching Bible studies and practice.

Training camp in Branson, MO at AIM Headquarters was where our five-week adventure began. This is where God's hand on this trip was first seen, touching our hearts and beginning to change our lives. Every person on the East Coast Mission Trip came from different backgrounds and teams, most of us never having met before. Yet all of us were traveling together with one common goal: to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with America!



Once we all arrived, our fearless leader and director immediately put us to work. She knew these first days as a team would set the foundation for how well we'd work off of each other's strengths and weaknesses. Never underestimate AIM's ability to make you push and be stretched! We had a taste of what the Mission Trip would be like at training camp, but wait until you get out on the road – talk about character stretching!

One thing I know greatly surprised everyone is how much more we focused on our Bible studies than practicing our presentation pieces. It was just another testimony of how your spiritual walk is so much more important to AIM than any presentation.

We all worked hard till our knees were bruised from practicing on hard floors, and our brains were fried from Bible studies. We practiced and prayed and pushed as hard as we could that first week. As we prepared for life on the road, we could only wonder what plans God had in store for us – personally, and for our entire East Coast Mission Trip team!

- Alex DuBois, age 16
San Diego, CA

Perfect in it's Time

When we left training camp, I had no idea what to expect of the East Coast Mission Trip. It felt like I was leaving the country and going to a whole new world. Leaving training camp was difficult, because we had to say good-bye to the AIM interns who had already become good friends. After we had said our farewells we climbed aboard our fifteen-passenger van and started our adventure to a new world.

We drove a long, long time to our first destination: Westport, Kentucky. We arrived at Westport Baptist Church at 8:30 PM. When all of us had set our stiff feet down in Kentucky we had the opportunity to meet the pastor and his family. The next day was supposed to be our first workshop on the Mission Trip, but when the time rolled around for the training to begin, nobody showed up! Though we were disappointed that we didn't get to meet new people, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It gave us an opportunity to choreograph a new song as well as work on and perfect our Bible studies.

One thing we all enjoyed about Kentucky was that it is very peaceful, quiet and beautiful. Staying there was encouraging and relaxing. Another thing we loved about Kentucky was the peaceful and gorgeous Ohio river.

The Sunday we were there we presented at the Westport Baptist Church. It was very encouraging when people came up afterwards and thanked us for the message we had portrayed.

Even though we didn't have a workshop in Westport Kentucky, it was a tremendous stop. Though we expected a workshop instead of study time, we knew that God had a better plan.

- Ben Moore, age 14
Branson, MO

The Quick Stop In Kentucky

When we left Westport, we headed to Danville, Kentucky. When we reached Shakertown Baptist Church, everyone was anxious to get out of the van. As we were getting out we were greeted by a friendly dog. The dog, we later found out, is the church dog. He was called that because he had been abandoned in the church parking lot and has stayed there ever since. Once everyone was in the sanctuary we practiced for our upcoming Sunday evening presentation. After the presentation we went to the music minister's house, where we had been invited for



supper. We learned that in Danville it is traditional to eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with your chili. For most of us this was a new experience!

After leaving the music minister's house, we went to the church for the night. After we woke up, we ate breakfast and left for our next stop: Blacksburg, Virginia.

- Jacob Lyell, age 14
Branson, MO

Blessed First Stop

Blacksburg, Virginia is where we, as the East Coast Mission Trip Team, taught our very first workshop. Our students were from the local Blacksburg AIM Team. Giving the Bible studies was not only a learning experience for our students, but for our whole team as well. Even though we were not expecting to teach the songs we were asked to, we still enjoyed the challenge. As we watched the final presentation, we gave God the glory for what he accomplished through us.

We learned more from teaching the Bible studies at this first workshop than we had from all the rest of the time we had invested in them. Finally we realized how much work putting together a Bible study takes. We

were excited when the young people seemed to grasp the concepts we expressed. Throughout the Bible studies God was amazingly and phenomenally preparing us for the workshops to come.

The classes which we had been preparing to teach were postponed because the specific needs of the team were better met just by teaching songs. The students were divided into three groups, and each of them learned and presented two songs. When we were finished teaching we realized how awesome God had been to us during the last three days.

Eventually the hard effort of the students was manifested through the final presentation. Seeing the fruit of our work was a delight. Watching the final presentation is a wonderful memory of how hard the students of Blacksburg worked. Most importantly, however, is that God was glorified throughout the entire workshop, which is a pattern we strove to set throughout the whole East Coast Mission Trip.

- Amber Moore, age 15
Branson, MO

A Little Like Home

"There's no place like home." This well-known phrase seems to ring especially true while we are on the Mission Trip. There may be no place quite like home, but there are some places that come close. As we travel we have found that there are places we can feel at home even though we are far from our own. If you haven't guessed already, the wonderful places of which I speak are host homes. At each place we stop there are welcoming families in the area who graciously open their homes to us. We stay there for as long as we are in that area. At our host homes we find a warm place to sleep and a wonderful family to visit. It is such



a blessing when a family will take us in and make us a part of their family for a few days.

Upon first entering a home we are welcomed by the friendly voice of our hostess saying, "Make yourself at home!" Within a few minutes we discover we really do feel much at home. It is a joy to come back after a long day of running a workshop or presenting. We enjoy sitting down with the family at the end of the day and getting to know them. Many times we get history lessons of interesting facts about the area in which we are staying. We then go to bed grateful and content to have a warm place to sleep. In the morning we wake up refreshed and ready to start another day. The sack lunches our hosts provide are always appreciated. Oftentimes our day is brightened when we find a little note or drawing tucked away in our lunch, complements of the kids in the family.

It is bittersweet, when at the end of our stay, we have to leave our home away from home. Although we are away from our own families, throughout the last few days we have found a place that has begun to feel a little like home. We say our goodbyes to our host families and reluctantly climb into the van. As we drive away we look back and wave until the families are a mere speck on the horizon. We are sad to leave, but wait in anticipation to meet our next host families.

- Rebecca Corral, age 18
Adelanto, CA

A Soldier's Defence

TREES AND BUSHES RUSTLED IN THE BRISK AIR OF THE MORNING AS THEIR INHABITANTS SCURRIED FROM THEIR HOMES IN SEARCH OF FOOD AND ADVENTURE FOR THE DAY. THE RISING SUN BEGAN TO PEEL BACK THE MORNING CHILL LIKE A FIRE LIT IN A COLD ROOM. IN THE MIDDLE OF A TRANQUIL VALLEY STOOD A SOLDIER SOLEMNLY AWAITING THE EXPECTED ATTACK OF THE ENEMY. THE FIERCE WIND CAUSED HIS WORN CLOTHES TO BEAT AGAINST HIS SKIN. HIS RUGGED BOOTS TOLD OF THE YEARS OF BATTLE HE HAD EXPERIENCED. ON HIS FACE HE WORE THE MASK OF COURAGE AND DETERMINATION EXPECTED FROM A SOLDIER OF HIS STANDING. HIS WEATHERED HAND SEIZED THE HANDLE OF HIS SHEATHED SWORD - A PIECE OF METAL MASTERFULLY MOLDED, CONTAINING UNFATHOMABLE POWER. THE SOLDIER SLOWLY LOOKED INTO THE HORIZON,

AND WITH HIS GAZE BECKONED THE ENEMY FORTH. DELIBERATELY AND METHODICALLY HE DREW HIS SWORD FROM ITS PLACE OF REST, RAISED IT HIGH INTO THE AIR. AND THREW IT TO THE GROUND IN FRONT OF HIM. THE ONCE POWERFUL WEAPON NOW LAY LIFELESS AT THE SOLDIER'S FEET.

Likened to a sword, the Bible is a powerful weapon when placed in the hands of one who knows how to use it.

"The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 12:4)

REVIVE 2005 is a program designed to equip young people with the tools they need to use the Word of God as a powerful weapon against the Enemy. Using the Biblical truths found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, young people across the country were given tools to help them apply God's Word to every part of their lives.

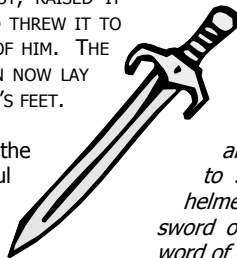
"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

By delving a little deeper into the meaning of these verses we find that God's Word is more than just a helpful guideline for how we are to live our lives, it is the ultimate resource for Christian living. Through five intensive Bible studies, students up and down the East Coast were taught how to identify the doctrines, reproofs, corrections and instructions in God's Word as well as how the application of these will equip them for "...every good work."

It is imperative that we, as Christians, be prepared to take a stand against the attack of the enemy. If we don't properly use our swords, we are defenseless, like the soldier. REVIVE 2005 was used as an equipping tool to help young people prepare themselves for the battle at hand.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the

rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the full armor of God so that you will be able to resist in the evil day and having done everything to stand firm...And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:12)



THE DEFENSELESS SOLDIER LOOKED AROUND AS HIS COMPANIONS DREW THEIR SWORDS. HE SAW AS THEY RAISED THEM HIGH IN THE AIR, CLUTCHING THEM TIGHTLY, PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR THE ADVANCE. VIGILANTLY THE SOLDIER KNEELED DOWN BEFORE HIS SWORD, GRABBED THE END AND ROSE NEXT TO HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS. RAISING HIS WEAPON ABOVE HIM AS IF IT WERE AN OFFERING LIFTED UP TO THE RISING SUN, THE SOLDIER TOOK A BOLD, VALIANT, DETERMINED STEP TOWARD THE ENEMY.

Jennifer Stafford
Branson, MO
Mission Trip Director

Let it Rain, Let it Rain!

There are two things that seemed inevitable on this Mission Trip - rain and things working out differently than we had planned. Our stop in Purcellville, Virginia was no exception. In addition to the endless rain, God revealed to us that we were not on our own schedule, but on His. When the workshop we had planned didn't work out, God gave us extra time to completely re-choreograph one song and practice several others. We appreciated this time to prepare for the events of the next few days.



The weather was cold and wet as the van pulled into the parking lot of Patrick Henry College the morning after our arrival in Purcellville. As soon as we stepped into the main building we could see the school's commitment to excellence. The students were very focused on God as well as academics. After a tour of the beautiful campus, we had the opportunity to present at the college's chapel service. We were truly blessed by our time at this amazing college.

The rain continued into the next

day and throughout the Guthrie's Fall Festival. This event is an annual festival put on by the Guthries, a Christian family in the Purcellville area. Despite the drizzle, the festival still went on and families from the community still came. In between our two scheduled presentations we had the opportunity to run the carnival games. This was the highlight of the day because we did it with our mime makeup on. We had to explain how to play various carnival games without saying a word. Afterwards, we assisted with clean-up by popping dozens of balloons and picking up more pumpkins than we could count! We left the Guthrie's farm that day cold, wet and muddy but with warm hearts, because we were able to minister to the Guthrie family and the people of the community.



As we left Purcellville to go to a new destination, I looked back at all we learned. We were reminded of our nation's heritage at Patrick Henry College and of God's goodness at the Fall Festival. Rain and all, He made "all things work together for good," (Romans 8:28) and once again showed us that He is in control of all circumstances. We drove on, ready for more rain and whatever else God had in store for us.

- Sarah Corral, age 18
Adelanto, CA

Yawn! Stretch!

It was 1:30 in the morning and we had just reached our destination in Dover, Delaware. The day prior to our arrival, our trailer had a flat tire which took eight hours to get a mechanic to fix. When we finally arrived, we were grateful to find host families eager to take us, even at 1:30 AM!

The following few days we held our workshop for the homeschooled youth of Dover. We challenged them to strive for excellence in their lives. They rose to this challenge immediately in the Bible memorization portion of the program. It was evident that every person was going for the highest level. In the area of mime they also strived to learn and succeed in every aspect.

Aside from the wonderful time we had teaching at Dover, we were also able to visit the Air Mobility Command Museum. It was terrific! This museum is known for

having many of the world's second-largest plane there. They also have many other awesome aircraft. We were allowed the privilege of stepping inside the cockpit of one of them.

I pray that I will be able to see the terrific people of Dover again. Their hospitality and desire for excellence in every area were a wonderful example and encouragement.

- Librado Lozano, age 20
Apple Valley, CA

Jared Poch
Cheyenne, WY
Assistant Director

New Jersey to New York *Through the eyes of an Actionite*

Our team cheered as we entered New Jersey, the beautiful Garden State. It was Thursday the 13th of October when we started our workshop. On the first day we discovered that we had about 57 students, who then delighted us by the respect and attention they showed our team. The second day of the workshop we conducted two Bible studies and worked on polishing our songs.

Our third day dawned bright and flawless, a beautiful cool morning on the east coast. The team was appreciative of the clear fall weather, for on this day we were to explore the aged hallways of Ellis Island and visit the inspiring site of the Statue of Liberty. Our ferry ride over was lovely and refreshing. While we were on board the boat we were able to more easily imagine the joy that the immigrants experienced when they first beheld the Statue of Liberty.

On Sunday, we were privileged to present the gospel in Theater 315, a Salvation Army church just off Broadway in New York City. Upon finishing our presentation, we were escorted up to the roof of the five-story theater for a spectacular view of New York City. Once we had beheld the city from above, we could not resist the urge to walk the streets. And walk the streets we did! We had a friend from the area who acted as our tour guide. It was simply picturesque looking at the Rockefeller ice rink in the soft evening light. While we took

group photos
a n d
sauntered
b a c k
t o w a r d s

the van, I believed our team had a better appreciation of NYC.

Needless to say, when the hour arrived that we had to depart, there were many sad countenances and promises to stay in touch. With that, we were off to Rhode Island for another ACTION-sized adventure!

- Kristina Van Kirk, age 17
Golden, MO

Shining God's Light **in RI, CT, and MA**

Rhode Island has been a regular stop on the East Coast Mission Trip for several years now, and our team was very excited to be able to run a workshop there again this year. This workshop was the first stop on this trip that we ran our full workshop, including our creative arts classes. The majority of the young people chose to take our mime or creative movement class.

After registration and our first Bible study, we divided the participants into groups based on age and which class they had chosen. We began training, but, unfortunately, class time was cut short by a power outage! The unexpected event sent us all home early.



The following morning our team conducted a mini-workshop for a homeschooling group interested in starting an AIM Team in Connecticut. We taught this group some basic technique and one of our songs, and a class was given to provide them with information on how to start a team. The parents were very enthusiastic, and the training went well. Upon arriving back at the church, we continued our workshop with Bible studies and training. We focused on teaching songs to our different groups, who eagerly accepted our instructions and worked diligently on their pieces.

On our third day, were blessed to be able to see the sights in Boston, Massachusetts. Our team walked the Freedom Trail, singing praises and periodically pausing to pray. This was an awesome opportunity to shine God's light in a dark place. When we returned, we immediately continued working with our classes, finishing and finalizing our songs. The day passed quickly, and soon the time

to prepare for our final presentation arrived. It was amazing to hear students singing praise songs and forming prayer groups as our team created an assembly line to apply makeup and fix hair for our excited pupils. The final presentation went incredibly well. Although most of the classes had learned two songs, for time's sake each class only presented one, and our team did a few songs as well. We were also very excited to have a nine-year-old take the challenge we presented to the students, memorizing all the verses required to reach the highest level, which we deemed "Impossible." He was the youngest person ever to attain to that level.

As you can see, this was a group of dedicated young people willing to strive for excellence. It was an honor to work with this group from Rhode Island!

- Cami Miner, age 17
San Diego, CA

AIM Radio

Welcome back everybody to AIM Radio, broadcasting live from the Washington, DC area, and I'm your host, Methuselah. It's pretty much bare out here in this weather, being that it is misting. Wait, there is a mime group making motions to songs on the muddy Washington Mall, in the center of DC. What could get teenagers enthusiastic enough to stand out in the cold mist for an hour?

Excuse me, I'm Methuselah from AIM Radio. Can you tell me about your group? Oh, yes, you can't talk. May I speak to your director? M'am, why do you have a troupe of mimes here in the Capitol on this Friday, October 21st?

"The young people behind me are traveling with ACTION Impact Missions. We've had the chance to present several pieces that speak about God and why He should be prevalent in America. This morning we had the chance to visit the American History and Air and Space Museums, and we had a tour of the US Capitol. Tonight we will be visiting the Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials. They very much enjoyed seeing all the history that



was built in this city. We will also continue to pray for the history being made even now in the capital of this great nation. Tomorrow we have the privilege of presenting on the steps of the US Capital, across the street from here."

Thank you for telling us about the mimes you have here. It's amazing to see young people showing so powerfully what they believe!

- Ryan Brown, age 15
Wyoming, DE

The Work Continues...

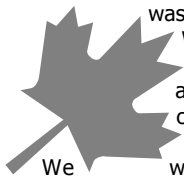
Where can you find a van-load of mimes and a horse and buggy driving on the same road? This sight was not uncommon in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the heart of Amish Country and home of DRAMA Ministry, the local AIM Team. Our time in Pennsylvania allowed us to get to know the people of DRAMA Ministry, and have some awesome sight-seeing opportunities.

We stayed in Pennsylvania for five days. The first two days were spent getting to know the members of DRAMA Ministry. On Saturday we talked, prayed, and worshiped together, and on Sunday we visited with the team members and their families over a potluck lunch. Over the next three days we put on a workshop for some of the students from DRAMA Ministry, as well as many other homeschooled students from the community. Through the Bible studies we challenged them to REVIVE God's Word in their hearts, and apply it to their lives. At this workshop we offered all four of our classes: mime, sign language, creative movement, and public speaking. On the last night of the workshop the students showed what they learned through a final presentation for their family and friends.

While we were in Pennsylvania we also had some exciting sightseeing opportunities. We witnessed some of God's beautiful creation as we took a hike in the forest. It was beautiful because the green leaves were changing into their brilliant autumn colors. In Philadelphia, we saw the Liberty Bell and toured Independence Hall. We learned a lot about the birth of our nation in Philadelphia, the city that was once the temporary capitol of the United States of America.



It was time once again to say goodbye to a place that had begun to feel like home. As always, it was hard to leave.



We had met some amazing people, and had been challenged to be unified as a team.

We were sad because we knew that the Mission Trip was almost over, but we drove to our next destination, confident that our work was not yet finished.

- Sarah Corral, age 18
Adelanto, CA

Last Chance

Hi, Y'all and welcome to the Tennessee workshop! The workshop started at a camp where we met the AIM Teams from the towns of Dickson and Franklin. It was a bittersweet feeling for the East Coast Team. While we were delighted to do a workshop in Tennessee, we were also saddened by the realization that it was our last workshop on the Mission Trip. We were comforted by the words of our less sentimental team members: "Get over it!" So we did, and we worked hard to make our last workshop as excellent as possible.

At this workshop we had to take all the work we normally did in three afternoons and get it done in a one-and-a-half day session. Having taught the Bible studies and songs until we knew them like the backs of our hands definitely helped as we squished the program into a smaller schedule. It was encouraging to see how much we had grown as teachers. At the beginning of the Mission Trip we were good at getting the information across to the audience, but communicating the excitement and passion of our topic was more challenging. But by the time we reached Tennessee, we had learned to present the studies with boldness and confidence, motivating and challenging our listeners as well as instructing them. We had also learned to show initiative and take responsibility. Our director was able to step back and let us run the workshop, knowing we had learned from all our past experiences.

The teams in Tennessee amazed us with their hard work. In just that short amount of time, they learned four entire songs! God blessed everyone's efforts and

opened the opportunity for the teams to be at a harvest festival for their final presentation. The teams presented their four songs with excellence, making us proud. We worked hard to make our songs excellent as well and to glorify God as much as possible.

Tennessee was our last chance to give it our all during the Bible Studies and classes. We had grown as a team during the five weeks of our trip, and had learned a lot about leadership, initiative, and being a servant of God. Even though Tennessee was our last workshop, we pray that we continue to push towards excellence and that God's word will revive us every day.

- Christy McCullough, age 18
San Diego, CA
Jared Poch
Cheyenne, WY
Assistant Director

Last March of the Mimes

The rainy Tennessee countryside gave way to the drizzling landscape of Arkansas without much fanfare. But as the van left drizzling Arkansas and entered dripping Missouri, one could feel the excitement mounting. Missouri, home to seven of the team members and beloved by all, was the state from which the Mission Trip had gone forth, and to which it was now returning.

"It's over," echoed through each of our minds, bringing an odd combination of sadness, relief and disbelief. But it wasn't over; not yet. We arrived at AIM Headquarters, ate supper, and stayed up slightly later than we should have, reviewing and reminiscing over all that had occurred in the last five weeks.

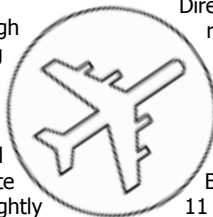
The final day of the Mission Trip contained a mixture of relaxed schoolwork time, hurried finishing of projects, and melancholy repacking. As we sorted through the items we left at camp, we were reminded of our personalities and lives before the Mission Trip. We were all wondering in what ways we would be found changed. As we tried to fit all our belongings back into our bags, a philosophical question began to plague us: "What on earth possessed me to buy so many useless, over-priced tourist trinkets?"

In the afternoon, we boarded the

van for the last time as a team. Our final event was a harvest festival at a local church. As soon as we arrived we set to work arranging games, prizes, tables and chairs. The team had a great work ethic after five weeks of intense activity, and the preparations were soon finished. We found a room where we could meet privately, then sat down for another of our frequent talks. The topic was, of course, going home. We discussed the transition back to normal life, and the challenges and blessings of going back after a Mission Trip.

When the harvest festival began, the team went into action. Now dressed as mimes, they alternated between presenting songs and interacting with the crowds of sugar-charged children (and adults) who were milling in and out. It is very draining to stay friendly and chipper for hours on end, but the team did an excellent job. The event drew to a close, and we started cleaning up. Thus ended our last presentation and service project.

Upon our arrival, we received a last word of encouragement and exhortation. Then it was off to bed for an early start. By this time the East Coast Mission Trip Team was officially no more, as two of the local members had already been taken to their homes. Directly after breakfast, the rest of the team and their luggage squeezed into the van for the ride to the airport.



By sundown that day, 11 young people had been reunited with their loved ones back at home. They were all aware that they had been given the opportunity to actively be a part of God's work for five weeks. What they didn't know was that by leaving the Mission Trip, they were entering their Mission Field. The pain of separation was necessary for these missionaries to be launched.

Let the world be on the alert! While they were together, they were confined to one area at a time on the East Coast. Now, these dedicated and tested warriors of the kingdom of heaven are loose across the nation! The world will never be the same.

- Jared Poch, age 19
Cheyenne, WY

AIM's East Coast Mission Trip Members

- Ryan Brown**, age 15
Wyoming, DE
- Alex DuBois**, age 16
San Diego, CA
- Rebecca Corral**, age 18
Adelanto, CA
- Sarah Corral**, age 18
Adelanto, CA
- Librado Lozano**, age 20
Apple Valley, CA
- Jacob Lyell**, age 14
Branson, MO
- Josh Lyell**, age 12
Branson, MO
- Christy McCullough**, age 18
San Diego, CA
- Cami Miner**, age 17
San Diego, CA
- Amber Moore**, age 15
Walnut Shade, MO
- Ben Moore**, age 14
Walnut Shade, MO
- Kristina Van Kirk**, age 17
Golden, MO
- Chaperone Heidi Lyell**
Branson, MO
- Driver Jon Lyell**
Branson, MO
- Director Jennifer Stafford**
Branson, MO
- Assistant Director Jared Poch**, age 19
Cheyenne, WY

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...



Contact Us!
ACTION Impact Missions

1-888/542-9186
417-334-8001

PO Box 7070
Branson, MO 65615

www.aiminternational.org
act@aiminternational.org