



ROAD-REPORT



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

In the Beginning

Before every AIM Mission Trip, an intense, week-long experience known as Training Camp occurs. During this time, students learn new mimes, are taught how to create Bible studies, and learn everything else they need to succeed during their time on the road.

Writing the Bible studies was the most intense part of the Midwest Mission Trip Training Camp. We spent much of our time at camp in the basement of AIM Headquarters, discovering what



God wanted us to teach. During this time I personally learned how to get more into God's word.

The most enjoyable part of camp was learning the songs. It was fun to find out what parts I was going to have. We only had a few days to learn the songs well enough to not only present them, but also to teach them to others.

Also during camp we learn how to be flexible in our schedules. This is very important for AIM; we would have never been able to succeed on the road without being willing and available to do whatever was asked of us, whenever we were asked.

Another awesome thing about Training Camp is where it was located. AIM Headquarters is situated on a beautiful, fifteen-acre lakefront property in Branson, MO. Being able to have our devotions and some training time outside with God's creation all around us was a wonderful addition to our stay.

I would highly recommend AIM Training Camp for anyone who wants to be stretched in Bible study, mime skills, and AIM's standards. Only after being challenged and grown was our team ready to face the challenges waiting for us on the Mission Trip.

- David Beck, age 15
Hesperia, CA

First But Not Least

The year was 2005; the town was Winfield (a small town in the state of Kansas); the date was Saturday, July 16. After a long ride in the van, we knew we had hit Kansas when all the hills and mountains disappeared and were replaced by flat highways, goats, cows, and sagebrush. We reached Winfield and went straight to the Evangelical Free Church. It was exciting that the first stop on the Mission Trip was at my home church which greatly supported me during the trip.

The next morning, we did a presentation at the church for both morning services. It was a great opportunity to show my supporters how God was working in my life.

The Mission Trip team had worked together the week of training, but it took presenting at a church service to pull us more fully into team unity. Thus began the great journey known as the 2005 AIM Midwest Mission Trip!

- Tim Evans, age 20
Winfield, KS

The Wheels on the Van Go Round and Round

You never realize how well you know someone until you spend countless hours sitting next to them in a fifteen passenger van. Our time in the van brought our team closer together as we learned to have patience with each other, be sensitive to each other's needs, and to encourage each other in Christ.



One way we were able to encourage each other was through team devotions. Every day one person was assigned to give a devotion on a specific *AIM* standard. These devotions ignited meaningful discussions among the team, and we were able to challenge each other to continue giving glory to God.

Not only did we study God's Word, we also were required to do

schoolwork. We had to stay disciplined to get all of our schoolwork accomplished in the van. I think it was during those times that we learned what doing everything to the glory of God really means!

Another time in the van that brought us closer together was when we sang worship songs. No matter how hot it was, how tired we were, or how much our throats hurt, it seemed to melt away when we lifted our hearts up to the Lord. He revealed His amazing presence to us every time, proving His faithfulness.

We received encouragement from each other in various other ways while in the van. Lily and Nicky, ages two and four, always made us laugh with their funny antics. We also had a "verse for the day," which one of our team members faithfully picked out for us every morning. We posted the verses on the window so we would be reminded of the importance of God's Word.

Overall, the time we spent in the van definitely brought us closer together as a team. We learned self-sacrifice and got to know each other very well. As we received joy from the Lord, we could encourage each other. His Word was being revived in our hearts, making us excited to spread the gospel at every stop.

- Ashley Aran, age 16
Wyckoff, NJ

Not in Kansas Anymore

After a ten-hour drive from Winfield, Kansas, a team of weary travelers finally reached their destination: Colorado Springs, CO. As we stretched our rather numb legs, we got ready to put on our first workshop.

We expected to start a workshop right away, but then discovered that the leadership had other plans. We spent the first day seeing all the sights Colorado

Springs had to offer, instead. Our team was able to visit the Focus on the Family headquarters. It was really awesome to see how much God has blessed that ministry. After seeing this evidence of the Lord's faithfulness, we got to see the work of His hands. We visited a national park called "Garden of the Gods," or as we called it, "God's Garden." This place was full of gigantic rock formations. With these massive giants of stone all around me, it put things into perspective: God is so much bigger than I could ever imagine to be able to make all of His creation. After this awe-striking experience, we were ready to start our workshop.

With this being my first AIM Mission Trip, I didn't know what to expect. I found there was actually a drama group through a church there already. The way they worked together as a team was very admirable. The young people we were training had the same sense of community we were learning about for ourselves on the Midwest team. I was also impressed at how quickly they caught on to what we were teaching, as well as their willingness to learn. We taught them three songs in a matter of hours, which they presented that same night!

We had a memorable time in Colorado Springs. From sight-seeing to teaching mimes, it was a great experience. It was very rewarding to see our team help equip the local youth to spread the Gospel in their community. I have no doubt that God is going to use them to bring Him glory!

- Chris Hull, age 16
Ventura, CA

Rockies Road

The Winter Park, CO workshop took us to the top of a very large mountain. We had a long ride up into the mountains on roads just wide enough for two cars to barely make it past each other. Looking to our right, we glimpsed down the side of the mountain. By the time we reached the top, it felt as

though we were walking amongst the clouds. It was beautiful!

It was in Winter Park where we held our first full three-day workshop.



Even though we were nervous, we stayed in an attitude of prayer, knowing that God would speak through us. And He did! Because He gave us the words we needed, we know that He was glorified and that His will was done that day. Over the course of the three days the students in the workshop learned three songs, engaged in five intensive Bible Studies, memorized tons of Scripture, and underwent a course on evangelism.

Winter Park also offered the first opportunity for a service project! We painted a modular building that the church will eventually use for their offices. The building was rather large, and no one expected it to be finished that morning, but by God's grace and a lot of hard work, it was!

To the team this stop was a chance for us to grow closer as a team and as a tool for the Lord's work. It is good to look back and see how God worked in and through us on top of that mountain.

- Tim Evans, age 20
Winfield, KS

"Wake up!"

When the day is still young and those words are heard, they are usually rudely and abruptly ending our childlike slumber. Yet on the Midwest mission trip the words "Wake up!" were shouted at the very beginning of the intro to the first Bible study we taught at the workshops. The verse we based the entire Bible study program on was 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "*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.*" We wanted to revive the word of God in the lives of everyone who went through the program.

On some mission trips, the Bible studies are handed to the team pre-written and ready to be taught, but on the Midwest Mission

Trip we were given the task of writing the studies that would be taught in the weeks to come. Putting the Bible studies together molded a group of young individuals into a team that relied on God and each other for help. As a team, we learned what it took to create a Bible study that would be life-changing and understandable for young people. It was quite convicting to see that the topics we were going to teach on were areas we struggled with in our own lives. If you had to ask who wrote the Bible study, we honestly would have to tell you it was God. It was a total blessing to have the final product flow and fit together perfectly. That definitely did not come from us! There was no other way to explain it except for God.

The "Revive 2005" program we wrote consisted of five different Bible studies focusing the Bible and our response to it. Through showing all the things the Bible is good (or "profitable") for, we wanted to make people aware that they can be totally equipped to do anything God calls them to do because of His Word. Something I felt strongly about was getting the kids excited about reading the Bible themselves and not just accepting other people's interpretations. Especially when I was younger, I didn't think the Bible was something for me; I thought it was something for others to teach me about. We didn't want the young people to walk away from the workshop just taking our word for it that the Bible is great. We wanted them to find out for themselves all the things God wants to teach them.

Encouraging the kids to revive the Word of God in their lives was our main agenda. I think God had a bit more in mind than we did. When we wrote the Bible studies, we had hoped they would positively affect the people we were teaching. We had no clue how much it would affect us in the process.

- Chris Hull, age 16
Ventura, CA

Long-Awaited Landmark

In the late 1840's, as lack of work and sustenance began to afflict the central United States, thousands of people set out in search of a better life. Families embarked on a

rigorous, do-or-die expedition across the country through vast plains, endless deserts, and treacherous mountains on what we now call the Oregon Trail. On this trail, sojourners would seek out landmarks to confirm that they were indeed headed in the right direction. One of the most established landmarks was in Nebraska: Scottsbluff, a large sandstone formation, served as a sanctuary and support for the weary travelers. It offered them a place of rest and served as an indication that they were closer to their destination. This summer the massive rock welcomed a new group of weary travelers.

On July 24th, 2005 our team arrived in Scottsbluff, NE where we held our second workshop. Our workshop was held at Gering Baptist Church, which was the perfect facility because of its size as well as the fact that most of the individuals who attended the workshop already knew their way around. For those reasons, and because all the people we met were so wonderful, our stay in Scottsbluff was extremely enjoyable.

Throughout the three days we taught twelve young people how to effectively communicate the gospel using techniques of creative evangelism such as mime, sign-language and public speaking. It seemed at every stop the group we taught persevered harder than we were expecting. We were amazed at how quickly these young people were learning and how teachable they were. All of them had great attitudes!

On our second day we had a chance to hike around the top of Scottsbluff National Monument. The shuttle bus driver who drove us to the top of the bluff was a Christian. She really enjoyed hearing about what we do as a ministry, and we were able to encourage each other. Hiking down was a lot of fun as well, and a great relief from the busy workshop schedule.

Our last day in Scottsbluff we had our final presentation, and everything went very smoothly. We enjoyed getting to know and help the kids at the workshop that week, and were very pleased with how many verses they had memorized during just three days.

As a team we benefited spiritually

in Scottsbluff. We had some spare moments (like climbing Scottsbluff) to get to know each other one-on-one, which helped us grow closer as a team. We experienced spiritual attack, but the time we had together strengthened us as a team and made us better prepared for our next stop.



Scottsbluff served long ago as a landmark for those traveling the Oregon Trail, but it also serves as a landmark for those of us traveling on the Midwest Mission Trip. We are reminded of the perseverance and teamwork that took place in Scottsbluff, NE.

- Jessica King, age 15
Lancaster, PA

Ministry in Motion

The Wheatland workshop was a fantastic experience. It is a privilege to be able to show God's love by presenting the gospel and serving others. During our stay we challenged the young people through a three-day workshop and did a service project at a missionary family's house.

This was the first time AIM had been through Wheatland, WY. Our participants ranged widely in age from 3rd and 4th-graders to grown adults. Working with such a wide variety of ages was fun but also challenging, especially when trying to adapt to different teaching levels. The final presentation went extremely well. Two of the adults, along with another young girl, gave speeches during the final presentation, and all the other participants presented the songs they had learned.

In addition to running the workshop, we also had the opportunity to do a service project for a local missionary family. While the family ministers in Haiti, they rent out a house in Wheatland to raise support. Though the house and yard were in decent shape, there was still a lot of work to be done, and thus a service project was born. Our jobs consisted primarily of scraping old paint off the house, clearing brush, and trimming trees and bushes. It was nice to be able to get some exercise and bless the missionary family at the same time!

We had a wonderful time in Wheatland. The students were

very enthusiastic about what they had learned and we did our best to challenge them to do well in their classes and learn from the Bible studies. It was great to see such a wide range of ages participating in the workshop. God has called us to show his love to others; presenting the gospel and serving others are just a few ways of doing that.

- Timmy Paylor, age 17
San Diego, CA

Home on the Range

"You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

The ends of the earth began to look very familiar as the van rolled into the town of Cheyenne, WY. My excitement mounted as we reached landmarks I knew, and started down streets I had driven countless times before. I was grinning with excitement by the time we reached the parking lot of my home church.



One of the main services AIM offers is mime presentations. I watched with quiet amusement as the emotions common to audiences across the nation passed over faces I've known for years. When I went up to talk, I spoke not to another group of kids but to little children I had held as babies or taught in Sunday school. Though taller than when I left, they had changed very little. I realized I was the one who was the most different.

The second service AIM offers is the workshop. In the early afternoon, I began helping to teach a standard-issue, four-hour mime workshop. It was a privilege to share the familiar songs and skills with familiar people. They all learned very quickly and with great enthusiasm.

Finally, for the first time since December, I was able to stay in my own house for a night. Even though I was sharing my family with two other boys from the team and sleeping on the floor in the living room, it still felt like being home. In fact, I found that the old habits of being at home and pampering myself were still there, even though I had been away such a long time.

Being back in Cheyenne was a blessing and a challenge to me.

While I was able to use the skills I have learned to bless those I love the most, I was also forced to be an example to those who know me the best.

- Jared Poch, age 19
Cheyenne, WY

A Time of Encouragement

Laramie, WY was our seventh stop on the Midwest Missions Trip. The people there were such a blessing and encouragement to us! Some of them had to drive an hour each day just to get to the workshop, but they always came with great attitudes, enthusiasm, and energy.

On the morning of our second day we, as a team, had a time to debrief and discuss how we felt we were doing as a team and how we felt we were doing individually. It was really beneficial for our team to just sit down and think about what the Lord was teaching us and how He was working in and through our lives on the road.

Before the students arrived at the workshop on the third day, we spent a couple hours doing team building activities. The time spent together outside gave us more energy and passion for the work we had to accomplish. At the workshop, we had a time of training songs, working on technique and memorizing verses. We realized quickly that we were working with a group of overachievers! Not only were they doing a great job learning their songs, they were also memorizing verses at an amazing speed!

The third and final day arrived, the day of the final presentation. We were confident that this group was ready to present, but as always, Satan was trying to hold us back. One of our team members got sick at the last minute and couldn't mime. Thanks be to God, we had a flexible team! After switching a few people's parts, we were able to do the scheduled songs. Afterwards, we received many good reports about how people were touched by the presentation, or how they were amazed at the difference they could see in their children.

God used us to bless the people in Laramie, but God also used the people in Laramie to bless us. We were so encouraged by their enthusiasm, energy, perseverance, and most of all, their strong faith in Christ. They were really on fire that week. For the first time on

the mission trip, three students completed the fifth section of the assigned verses. In recognition of their hard work we gave them certificates showing how far they got, as well as an *ACTION* T-shirt. We are so proud of them and all the people at that workshop! I pray that God will bless them and all the work that they continue to do for Him.

- Jessica King, age 15
Lancaster, PA

Loving the Land

What should you expect in a city named Loveland? We weren't sure either! What we weren't expecting is that this stop would stretch us in a way the team hadn't experienced yet.

Our team arrived in Loveland, CO on Thursday, August 4th. We were informed that we would be working with a younger group. This was our first opportunity to work with a very young team in a workshop. We jumped into the workshop not knowing what to expect, excited to see how God would work through the team He had given us!

At the end of the first day we realized there were many lessons we could learn from the kids at our workshop. By establishing friendships with each of the young people, we learned how unique and special each of their personalities were.

The workshops went incredibly, and the kids learned two pieces they were able to share in the final presentation. It was a great encouragement for us to see the young people be so successful. Many parents came to the AIM Team afterwards and expressed how blessed they were for the work we did with their children (but I think we received the bigger blessing!).

It was difficult to say goodbye. We fell in love with the people as well as the location...no wonder they call it Loveland!

- Jaclyn Arndt, age 14
Homer, AK

The Open Doors

Round and round the bus wheels go; where they'll stop, nobody knows! What we do know is that when they stop, we will find Christian families ready to open up their homes to us.

Besides getting to meet tons of

amazing students at the various workshops, we also have the opportunity to meet extraordinary Christian families by staying in host homes. Each family is unique in its own way, but one thing we find in common at each home is a willingness to serve.



"What is a host home?" you may be asking yourself. Host homes are families that open up their dwelling places and provide refuge for team members as well as breakfast and lunches. Most often, host homes also provide transportation to and from the training facility. Host homes are a vital part of every mission trip.

Each home we stay in is an opportunity to discover a new story about how God has been at work in their family. Host homes are a place where we get to relax and simply talk to people one-on-one. For me, host homes were a special part of this trip because they provided opportunities to meet and make new friends.

No matter where we go, we know we will always find open doors and open hearts.

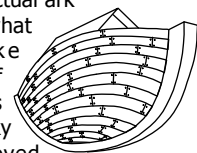
- Rosalie Hughes, age 18
San Diego, CA

The Lord Told Noah to Build Him an Ark Arky...

Our second-to-last stop of the mission trip was Estes Park, Colorado. Since this was the last week of the trip, our team was getting exhausted. It was evident at this point that we had to rely on God's strength, not our own, to get through.

When we drove to Estes Park, we were amazed at the beautiful scenery all around us. God's handiwork was clearly displayed by the majestic mountains and rushing river. Upon our arrival in Estes Park we were given the opportunity to do some sightseeing and shopping. The first place we visited was known as Estes Ark. This was a shop that looked like an actual ark

and had what seemed like millions of stuffed animals for sale. Nicky and Lily loved visiting with them all. After we said our good-byes to the animals we visited an antique shop nearby.



The rest of the afternoon was spent visiting other tourist shops. The whole team appreciated the relaxing time of fellowship we had with each other.

That evening we drove to the summer camp we were going to be staying at for the next four days, and were given a tour. We did several service projects at the camp during our stay there. These consisted of working in the camp's kitchen after breakfast and lunch, and cleaning out a basement storage area. With the dishes from our team, the camp staff, and 70 other campers to wash twice a day, it was challenging work, but well worth the effort.



We held the three-day workshop at a nearby church. The kids we worked with were mostly younger, but were very enthusiastic about learning the mimes. We were amazed at their energy! God stretched all of us over the course of those three days, and we learned to rely on His strength. It was our goal for the children to get excited about reading their Bibles and sharing the gospel with others.

Our time in Estes Park was very productive. Even though the service projects consisted of a lot of hard labor, we continued to work as a team and lean on God's strength. Our whole team learned a lot about how to serve the Lord with a glad heart.

- Ashley Aran, age 16
Wycokoff, NJ

Blown Away in Kansas

After four weeks on the road, we thought we'd seen it all, but what we found in Newton, Kansas was something so shocking, none of us were prepared for it.

When things get closer to their end, they usually start to go downhill. The workshop in Newton was the exception during this mission trip. The young people that came to the Newton workshop blew us away with their ability to learn so quickly. It was a total blessing to have a group of students that was eager to learn and truly interested in what we were teaching. There was nothing we had to hold back with what we taught them, because they

mastered whatever we threw at them. Though they had never come together as one group before, they worked like a refined team that had been established for years. We on the Midwest Team just sat back and marveled at these kids and their great attitudes. We were truly impressed that they were able to learn three songs well enough to present them in two different locations in only two days!

A family we had met at the Branson Headquarters attended the workshops, and we were privileged to be able to spend an evening with them. A relative of theirs lived in town, so we were able to kick back and enjoy their company as well. We had some team building time and a delicious dinner at the relatives' house. Some of the best times on the trip happened there during the Bible study, and more humorously, during the mail time we held there. The family's hospitality was such a blessing to us while we were finishing our time on the road.

The time we had in Newton, Kansas was the complete opposite of our feared weak ending. The workshop renewed our confidence in our team and the work God had done in us over the previous five weeks, and the company of a warm, welcoming family lightened our spirits as the mission trip drew to an end.

- Chris Hull, age 16
Ventura, CA

HELP WANTED:

Looking for a hard worker with no personal agenda. Needed to complete menial, laborious duties without much recognition. Payment, in the form of personal satisfaction, may be nominal and will be paid directly upon completion of services rendered. No previous experience is required.

"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him." John 12:26

John 12:26 serves as a want ad, beckoning us into Christ's service. It states the position - servant; the responsibility - to follow; and even the payment - honor from the Father. Occasionally we run into those who have chosen to accept the position. They are identified

by their nametag, "Servant", the smile on their face and their easily recognizable uniform, a vibrant shade of love.

Recently a work crew was sent out across the Midwest. Knowing that the work would not be easy, yet acknowledging that it had to be done, a team of fourteen individuals followed their Employer across the plains of Kansas, over the mountains of Colorado, and across the prairies of Nebraska and Wyoming. They joyfully painted, scrubbed, taught, trimmed, scraped, cooked, washed, moved, pulled, swept, organized, mopped, and prayed whenever and wherever the opportunity arose for them to do so. These servants executed each task jubilantly, never seeking a reward. The Midwest Mission Trip team joined together as co-workers with one goal - to serve God - and they reached it.



Through their actions they abandoned their desire to be comfortable in an effort to meet the needs of others. They rejected the mentality that joy is contingent upon satisfying one's own self-interest; they altered the status quo; they sought to serve. In doing so, they became leaders.

The ad is still posted. The position is still open. Many consider it absurd to work for an employer who promises no immediate compensation. It is ridiculous for us to offer up our life to serve another...

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus who...emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant...He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:3-8

...or is it?

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name..." Philippians 2:9

HELP WANTED:
Looking for...you.

- Jennifer Stafford
Branson, MO

AIM's Southeast Mission Trip Members

Ashley Aran, age 16
Wycokoff, NJ

Jaclyn Arndt, age 14
Homer, AK

David Beck, age 15
Hesperia, CA

Tim Evans, age 20
Winfield, KS

Rosalie Hughes, age 18
San Diego, CA

Chris Hull, age 16
Ventura, CA

Jessica King, age 15
Lancaster, PA

Timmy Paylor, age 18
San Diego, CA

Jared Poch, age 19
Cheyenne, WY

Chaperone
Kristi Madrigal
Branson, MO

Driver
Jorge Madrigal
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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