

# ROAD-REPORT



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



## Alarm!-ist Rhetoric

"Wake up!" has been our cry this year: To Christians tired of a habitual religion, Wake up! To young people numbed by countless discipleship ministries teaching vital principles that never stick, Wake up! To those of us exhausted by constantly finding new ways to transmit the gospel, Wake up! 2 Peter 3:3-4: "...scoffers will come in the last days ... They will say, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' ... all things are continuing as they were..." Our cold traditions are leaving us lifeless! But what if "[God's] mercies...are new every morning?" What if He is "making all things new?" If "the Word of God is living and active," it has to be the answer to our perennial problem of complacency.

It seems ironic that our Bible study this year would be about the *Bible*, yet God's Word has fallen so far from its high place in our lives we hardly think it applies to us anymore! We memorize whole passages and ponder deep theological questions while forgetting to ask practical question such as, "How should I drive?" or "(How) should I speak?" Our study focused on 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.*" If Scripture contains merely intellectual data, I will leave it to clergy; if, however, it is "profitable" to affect decisions I make on a daily basis, to realign my actions with God's will, I must read it as much and as often as possible, and meditate on it throughout the day. Thus, our hope was not so much to teach Biblical principles to our students, as to equip and motivate them to study Scripture, that it might leave them "*competent, equipped for every good work.*"

At workshops we reinforced these Bible studies with practical training and experience in finding God's will in the Bible. More, we trained groups to minister in their local communities. If "*faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead,*" an obvious help to reviving faith is to start working it out through ministry. That's exactly what our students did, learning to share the gospel creatively in their communities.

Over the course of the Mission Trip we ran the REVIVE program in vastly different situations, from teenagers not yet keyed in the richness of God's Word to ready youth expectantly waiting to

learn whatever was needed. In each instance the result was the same: renewed interest and care for the Word of God. Those who had never been interested before were given a vision for how large a role these sixty-six books can play in our lives, while students used to studying Scripture were challenged to absolutely *love* God's Word, rather than merely memorize it to achieve a goal. And the more we taught it, the more we learned it ourselves: God's Word *is* living and active in our lives today, and studying it *is* far more profitable than we can ever discover in one lifetime. Study it, cherish it, start reading it today!

-Andrew Vandever  
Director

## Hospitality

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." (Romans 12:13) I have had many opportunities to practice hospitality from my own home in Virginia. I've even practiced on several AIM Teams that have come to lead workshops for our team. Each time an AIM Team stays at my house I feel like the best hostess ever because the kids are such good guests. It was my hope that as we traveled through the Southeast United States that I would be as good a guest as the young people who have come to my home through AIM.

We stayed in many places on this mission trip, sometimes in homes with lots of children and animals and sometimes in church facilities. Exact accommodations fade out of memory, but what has stayed with me are the wonderful people who opened up their hearts and shared their lives with us.

Hospitality can be described as a condition of the heart. It is a willingness to share with those in need, a genuine desire to make others feel welcome and valuable.

God has shown us genuine hospitality on this mission trip through His church family though out the Southeast United States. He has changed me by showing me that when someone needs a place to stay they will not remember if the towels match or if they had cold cereal or eggs for breakfast. They will, however, remember if they felt welcomed, loved and valued. I look forward to applying what I have learned on this Mission Trip to more opportunities for hospitality and sharing with God's people in need.

-Andie Armstrong  
Chaperone



## Waking Up...

Matthew 16:24: "*Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If any of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me'*"

This is exactly what all ten of us did when we left the comfort of our homes on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to travel with an AIM Mission Trip. Each of us left behind a myriad of everyday things, such as family, friends, jobs, cell phones, guitars, vacation opportunities, television, weddings, graduations and birthdays. Not knowing what to expect (since most of us had never been on an AIM Mission Trip before), we all had a rush of emotions: uncertainty, eagerness, anxiety and excitement.

As we stepped out of the Springfield, Missouri airport we were greeted by a wall of hot air thick enough to swim through. Since most of us on this trip live in Southern California and Virginia, we weren't used to so much heat and humidity. Nevertheless, we didn't let the climate change stop us, because the ten of us knew that God had called each one of us on this trip for a reason and a purpose. We were embarking on a five-week mission trip that would change our lives forever!

The drive to the ministry headquarters in Branson took about forty-five minutes. Once we arrived we received a tour of the facility. None of us had ever seen the headquarters before, so it was really interesting; God has blessed AIM with a beautiful facility! After the tour we all went outside and sat in a circle to exchange names, ages, and anything else we'd need to know about each other during the Mission Trip.

Dinner was next on the agenda: homemade pizza, yum! It was a great way to relax and get to know each other, since the next five weeks were going to fly by!

-Amanda Buschman, age 17  
San Diego, CA

## ...On the Right Side of the Bed

Training Camp...where it all began. Picture yourself packing your car to go on vacation. You look at all the stuff you're bringing, and you know there is no way to make it all fit. But in the end it all gets in, and you drive off into the sunset. That's what training camp was like for us. We learned how to create and lead Bible studies, specifically the Revive 2005 Bible study we would be teaching at workshops. We practiced and learned many songs, some we were already familiar with, others we

were not, and we all learned at least a few, if not many new parts. One of the neat things about this Mission Trip is that it is the first one to start at AIM's new headquarters.

Approximately 8,000 miles from the tropical island of Ngazidja lies Branson, Missouri, a fertile, forested land nestled deep somewhere in the Ozark mountains. Branson gets about seven million tourists each year, people who come from all around to see the sights and watch the many and various shows. While there are a very large number of shows and theaters in Branson, they are all clean, and you can take your whole family to see any of them. Along with the man-made attractions, there is also a lot of wildlife. There are about five deer that roam about the headquarters property, and two turtles were caught in the week we were there. During the evening it's calm and quiet, and fireflies illuminate the yard. Sometimes there are flash-thunderstorms that come out of nowhere and pass over in ten minutes. God's creation is so awesome!



Learning the pantomimes was fun and challenging. We

were very blessed to have someone who was staying at headquarters at the time, and who was taking college-level mime classes, help us with our technique. I learned so much about mime and technique, I don't know how it all fit in my head. One of the guys on our team wasn't able to make it to Training Camp because of college, so we had to practice songs without him. Thankfully he is very capable, and we didn't have any trouble throwing him into his parts when we picked him up in Tennessee.

If we weren't working on songs, we were usually either preparing or giving team devotions or working on the Revive 2005 Bible Study Manual. The team devotions we had were a great time for us all to come together and relax a bit while getting into God's word. It was great being able to go out onto the porch and be able to look at God's creation while learning more about Him.

Well, we had fun and learned a ton. We began to get to know each other and learn how to work as a team. Learning songs, leading Bible studies, and getting ready to share what we learned is fun and challenging, but it's only the beginning...

-Tim Paylor, age 17  
San Diego, CA

## Signs and Wonders

This is a story of how incredible things happen, a story of how God can do things which don't make sense to us, but in the end the picture fits together so well it couldn't possibly be better. Do you want to see unexplainable things happen? Do you want to experience a hand not visible yet working wonders we cannot help but see? Read on and be amazed at the work of God's hand.

We were hard at work, on our way to our first presentation, excited to be used by God. We arrived with anticipation of what would happen at this church in Lebanon, Tennessee, our first opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ as a team. We put on our make-up and practiced the pieces that we were going to do, then prayed as the congregation arrived. The service opened with worship, and was then moved on to the "sermon" - us! God most definitely used the presentation in the lives of the people there: the church was greatly encouraged. Several people came to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ, and because of that it struck me that so often we don't even think about how incredible are the things that God does, and how He does them. I was amazed to see how God can take a bunch of young people from all over the USA, bring them together, and use them as tools. It's an honor we take for granted all too often, but what God does in and through our lives is truly wonderful.



God did incredible things on this Mission Trip, reminding us again and again that He can do anything, even above and beyond what we can ask for or think of. He can use who He wants, what He wants, when He wants it for His glory, to fulfill His plans and purposes. Our God is an awesome God, and the few things shared here are only small examples of what God is able to do. We so often overlook these things, but when we think about it we realize that God is able to do more than we can ever imagine. That, in our lives, is truly the unseen hand.

-Daniel Reyes, age 18  
Hesperia, CA

## Eternity Now

Our next stop, and certainly one of our favorites, was Kissimmee Florida- not pronounced "Kiss-a-me," but "Ki-se-mee." Kissimmee has a large retired population, and so we had many, many opportunities to minister to the elderly throughout our time there. While in Kissimmee we were able to celebrate the universal relevance of God's truth: young people shared with our elders the timeless message of God's love and salvation.

The first day in Kissimmee we went to a small parsonage on the grounds of Good Samaritan Retirement Village. At the parsonage we practiced some dramas we would present later that day. For lunch we went to Osceola Council on Aging for a presentation. I

know we touched some people's lives because of the tears that welled up in their eyes as they watched these patriotic mimes. After the presentation we sat down among the elderly people and talked with them over lunch. After lunch we said goodbye to our new friends and drove to the Good Samaritan church for a work project. When we arrived, the guys went straight to work packaging used medicine bottles for use by missionaries in Africa, then went to help the girls, who were preparing tables for a reception. Our spirits were high as we finished our work and went to a delicious supper prepared by the pastor's wife.

The next day we did our big work projects: we started our drive to Oak Leaf Retirement Home for instructions. For the guys, it was right into rubber gloves, then to three three-story staircases with buckets of bleach and water to clean, scrub, and sanitize. The girls' project was in the kitchen, preparing a lunch of hamburgers for thirty to forty people. Three staircases and forty burgers later we were ready to consume the delicious lunch the girls had prepared. Immediately after lunch we presented for the elderly present at lunch. We saw more tears flow as we gave a message of love for God and country. With the lunch presentation done, our day was still not yet finished. That night we presented at the Good Samaritan Village Church for a Wednesday night meeting. It was great to get the chance to encourage the elderly who still love the Lord, and are still running the race.

Kissimmee was a great place: even though most of the people we ministered to weren't in our age group, we saw that we are all still humans in need of a Savior, and that provides a common ground that transcends every generation gap.

-Daniel Armstrong, age 14  
Blacksburg, VA

## Starfish and Studies

Beautiful! Gorgeous! There's no *one* word that can describe Islamorada! Islamorada, Florida was the third stop on the Mission Trip, and the first time we ran a full workshop. This being the first Mission Trip for most of us, we did not yet have the experience of how to run a workshop, just the knowledge in our heads, but God caused this workshop to run really well. During the three days we stayed there we had the opportunity to do several work projects; sometimes God can find very non-ordinary things for us to do. We also got a chance to go on field trips, to see a bit of the Florida Keys, which was amazing. Islamorada is full of unforgettable scenes!

Well, our ministry to Islamorada all started when we left Kissimmee. We drove, and drove, and well, we drove for five hours. When we got there, we started right away preparing for the

workshop. Some of the youth attending the workshop were going on a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic, so we worked with them separately when teaching pantomimes. It was an amazing experience going through the Bible studies with them, and watching them get excited about becoming revived. After the three days of training they got to present what they learned to family and friends, and they did an astounding job! After the presentation the pastor gave an altar call, and a few adults and several children responded positively to the gospel! To God be the glory!

Free time! (NOT) During our time away from the workshop we did work projects wherever we could find them. Our first mission was to shovel the seaweed that had collected at the shore of the beach. (which was a lot!) We did not clean it all up, but we sure made a dent. While we could have focused on what we didn't accomplish, God encouraged us by sending a family who used the cleaned-up portion and asked us why we were out cleaning the beach on our own time. "It made a difference for that one!" We were also able to go to another beach and clean up all the trash lying around, which was fun. We had hoped to present, but the beach was nearly deserted, so we returned to the church to finish choreographing a song. Hopefully we didn't just leave footprints in the sand, but also impressions of Christ.

After we finished shoveling we had an opportunity to go to the aquarium, where we saw a whole bunch of fish and various other beautiful marine animals. The last day we were there we got to eat lunch at the beach. After that a few of the younger boys from the workshops caught a bunch of critters we were allowed to hold. Islamorada is a truly beautiful place, and after coming here I realize it's impossible for the world to have happened by accident. No place could be so pretty without a Creator. God is amazing!

So, overall we had a blast, from working with the kids to shoveling seaweed to seeing God's creation. It was amazing to see God working through us. Islamorada was a really neat experience, and I would love to go back someday! We accomplished a lot in this first workshop, both physically and spiritually, and God gets all the glory! Just as the beauty in the world around us points to the existence of a Creator God, the wonderful things that happened at this workshop prove that He is alive and working still today.

-Kelly Stafford, age 15  
San Diego, CA

## Why Here?

Why does God want us here? We sat on the floor in a (thankfully) air-conditioned entryway of the Teen Challenge building in Jupiter, Florida. After twelve-plus days of praying for God's hand to lead us somewhere, He had filled the void in our Mission Trip with this two-day opportunity.

Teen Challenge is a rehabilitation center for girls with an addiction, or life-controlling problem. It's a place of recovery, revival and renewal, an amazing ministry devoted entirely to leading teens closer to God.

While we sat on couches in the meeting room after arriving on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, waiting for the day's plan, some of the girls living at Teen Challenge came out to greet us and offer refreshments. At first glance we thought they were typical teenage girls, but we soon found out they were so much more than that!



We started serving in Jupiter with a presentation of four songs. During the presentation I saw a small portion of why God had brought us here. While signing the last part of the chorus to "Via Dolorosa," I glanced at a couple of the girls sitting on the couches in front of us. Water eyes met my gaze: we reminded them how great is God's love for us.

At the beginning of our two-and-a-half-hour workshop all the girls were quiet and shy, but after working with them an hour they started to come out of their shells and have fun. They were eager to learn the pantomimes, and excited to share God's love with the world. By the end of the night we had taught them basic mime technique and three new skits, which they are now taking on a mission trip to Guatemala. They will serve in a soup kitchen *and* reach out with some of the songs we helped teach them.

Monday night, after the workshop, we slept in a church. God provide for us last-minute through this church, who allowed us to use their building specifically out of a desire to obey the teaching in James 2:15-16.

Tuesday morning we had the opportunity to help out back at Teen Challenge, clearing weeds, branches, and cacti out of their back lot. The work was tough and dirty, but God gave us His strength, and the joy of knowing that we were being a blessing to the Teen Challenge Center.

After lunch we had a time of devotions and sharing. Both groups, the *AIM* team and the Teen Challenge girls, had a couple of people share their testimonies. We saw through their testimonies and experiences that nothing is impossible for God; He can save us and rescue us from any situation in which we find ourselves. The stories of their transformed lives encouraged and blessed us all!

After giving hugs and saying many goodbyes the *AIM* team piled into the van. The director of TC Jupiter was there to see us off; he told us we had been a great help and encouragement to the girls. Praise God! New friendships had been formed, and they were encouraged by seeing the dramas, a true picture of God's love for us. We

were blessed to see the way God's love changes and transforms lives, and privileged to see that no problem is too big for God to solve. We had been led here for a reason and we had seen a vivid example of God's never-ending love for us!

Matthew 19:26: Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for human beings, but for God everything is possible."

-Elizabeth Armstrong, age 17  
Blacksburg, VA

## Ministry Mind-Bender

One of the most exciting stops for me on our trip was in Brandon, Florida. Our housing in Brandon was arranged by a man named Jim Kelley. Mr. Kelley is a missionary both in and out of the country. How he spreads the gospel is truly amazing: Jim Kelley is a magician, and through this God-given talent he shows God's love for others. When we arrived at his house he started by simply telling us about his work. But then he started actually *showing* us his work. The tricks and illusions he showed us were truly fantastic. We could have watched for hours as Mr. Kelley bent our minds with his tricks, but as it got late it was time to leave. Though we only stayed a few short hours with Mr. Kelley, it was very encouraging to see another way of sharing the Good News. God truly works in mysterious ways!

-Daniel Armstrong, age 14  
Blacksburg, VA



## Revival

We saw the definition of Revival at our second workshop in Pace, Florida. We arrived in Pace on Thursday June 23, 2005. When we hopped out of the van we were greeted with open arms by our amazing host families. After visiting with our hosts and eating a delicious dinner of taco salad, we headed off to our separate homes, in eager anticipation of how God was going to work at this stop.

The preparation for the workshop started on Friday morning. While setting up the promotional table and backdrop and making nametags for the students we all felt as though we were trying to move through molasses. Nothing we were trying to do was working. The backdrop didn't look right, and we couldn't find props we needed. It was obvious we were under spiritual attack. We knew then that God was going to work in a mighty way in Pace.

Around 10:00 am the kids started showing up for the workshop. While a few of the teens were excited to be there, others were reluctant. We started trying to reach out and show them God's love while we taught the first Bible study. By the end of the first Bible study the AIM Team was pretty discouraged, because we hadn't made a connection with any of the youth. We prayed then and there, as a team, for God's hand to be upon the workshop, and for His strength to carry us.

Slowly, as we prayerfully continued to teach pantomimes and Bible studies, the young people began to get more comfortable with us, and they began to melt. They began to ask questions about scriptures, and became excited to study the memory verses. They started to participate more eagerly as they learned the skits. God was beginning a Revival in their lives.

After finishing the workshop for the day we headed over to a homeless shelter for an evening presentation. The AIM team presented one song, and then the local young people presented a song we had taught them that afternoon. We were very encouraged to see them remember what they had been taught. We presented a few more songs, and then went to shake people's hands in the audience. One six-year-old came up to me and started asking about the skits. She began to ask about Jesus so I, by God's grace, was able to pray with her, and a new child of God was born! We all left encouraged at how much God had done here.

Saturday morning, as we started the second day of the workshops, instead of the reluctance of the day before, our students were in their seats and ready to start! In the morning we shared our testimonies and our love for God with them. God softened and opened hearts, and they began to ask difficult questions about their walk with Christ. By God's grace we were able to encourage them with scriptures and show them just how much God loves them!

God continued to work through us as we wholeheartedly taught them their next pantomimes, and they participated more and more in the Bible studies. By our second lunch time the Pace youth were our new best friends. By God's power, they had been **Revived!** These young people were now **excited** about the Bible studies, **enthusiastic** during mime practice, and **energized** in their walk with Christ. Only by His power were we all brought closer to our God!

-Elizabeth Armstrong, age 17  
Blacksburg, VA

## Down by the Bay

We arrived in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi on the late Sunday afternoon of June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Bay St. Louis was quite unlike our previous stop in Pace, Florida. It was different in that we wouldn't be teaching a workshop, because we were only going to be in the area for one night.

Bay St. Louis, set right against the Gulf of Mexico, is a small but very southern town, which meant we were in for some good cooking! Shortly after we arrived we ate a delicious meal of Jambalaya. We ate quickly because we had a presentation at Dunbar Village, a nearby nursing home. It was bittersweet for us as we presented the gospel: it was sad to see all these dear people with disabilities, but we encouraged them to start and continue living for God. Lots of hearts

experienced the love of Jesus that night through His children. After the presentation was over we all got to talk to the elderly who lived there, as well as pray for them.

The next morning, as we packed all of our belongings up in the van and headed out for New Orleans, each of us was excited about the opportunity to share the gospel in the French Quarter. *"The people who live in darkness will see a great light. On those who live in the dark land of death the light will shine."* (Matthew 4:16 GNB) While the whole city of New Orleans was covered in spiritual darkness, we brought with us the piercing light of Jesus Christ. Throughout the day we had scores of people cross our path, many of whom stayed to watch us present the gospel. We never spoke, but God's message came through loud and clear; they may not remember a single word of the songs, but they will not forget the message behind them! It was obvious that God was working that day, convicting people of His truth. People left changed, different from when they'd arrived, with the seed of God's Word planted in their hearts.



We got to minister in very different situations over these two days: on the first, humans close to the end of their life, painfully aware of their mortality and ready to think about eternity; on the other, vacationers, on top of the world and enjoying today's pleasures. We may not have been the ones to lead these tourists to Christ, but the seed was planted in a way that will have effect in God's timing. My hope is that the seed we planted will continue to grow.

-Amanda Buschman, age 17  
San Diego, CA

## God's Navy

I was very excited when I heard we would be staying and working on a ship for a few days. Friend Ships is a completely faith-based ministry made up of a group of people dedicated to meeting people's needs and taking Jesus' love to disaster-stricken people around the world.

The ministry's mission is poverty and disaster relief, meaning they go and help people by giving out food and clothes and helping in any way they can. They mostly go to places that have been hit by a hurricane. The ministry has been active since the 1980's, and just recently moved headquarters to Lake Charles, Louisiana. They have five ships in the lake, one of which is used for staff and guest housing. Just recently they took one of the ships to Haiti, and they send numerous shipments to Israel to help aid refugees in that area.

The crew is composed of many neat people who are totally dedicated to God's work. It's like a family, and everyone works together for the common goal of helping those who are

in need. Not everyone gets the jobs they would prefer, but no one complains, choosing to focus instead on the end product of their hard work: Jesus' love made visible. It was very encouraging for us to see how much faith and dedication these brothers and sisters in Christ have, relying completely on God to meet all their needs as they meet those of others.

We were able to help with a wide variety of jobs, from sanding shore boats to sorting clothes for Israel and disaster relief. This ministry does a lot of hard work for the Lord, and it was neat for us to be able to go and help them for a few days. We all learned something new, even if it was just learning ship terms. It was wonderful to work, talk, and learn with the crew.

It was great to see how dedicated this ministry is to God's call. The whole crew is full devoted to their work, and have a heart to serve others. It was a blessing to be able to work with this ministry for a few days, learn about what God does through them, and see their hearts for God's work. God can do amazing things through those who trust in Him!

Ephesians 4:15-16: *"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."*

-Tim Paylor, age 17  
San Diego, CA

## Praying For Particulars

Do you want to multiply your joy? Do you long to see God in Action on behalf of other people? Then pray for the desires of your heart.

I had just this kind of joy on the Southeast Mission Trip. Let me begin the story 8 months ago. Our family had traveled to Lake Charles, LA to work with a Christian organization called Friend Ships. While there, we had an opportunity to attend church in the neighborhood next to the shipyard. There were close to sixty kids attending the church service that morning; over half the church is under eighteen years. The pastor talked about encouraging the youth to grow up strong in Christ. That morning I began to pray that if God wanted an AIM team to begin in Lake Charles then "far be it from me to sin by not praying for them." (1 Samuel 12:23) What began as a question soon became a desire. Psalm 20:4 says, *"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed."* Well, I didn't have any plans, but I was able to pray.



When the SE Mission Trip was announced, I was excited to see what God was planning to do. We signed up for the Mission Trip, and I continued to pray for God's will in Lake Charles. The Mission Trip planned to

work with Friend Ships for several days. This news was good and bad: good because of Friend Ships is close to the church, but bad because we would be working and busy from 6:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. When could catch the pastor in his office? So Megan and I prayed right there in the warehouse, that God would help us make contact. Less than an hour later the assistant pastor walked right into the warehouse. Pastor Walt works part-time at the church and full time for Friend Ships! That was a God-appointed meeting.

We met as a team with Pastor Walt in "The Upper Room" of the ship at 7:00 P.M. that night to present a few songs and talk with him about what an AIM team is and how it can work. He was very excited about the potential of an AIM team at his church. I can't quite describe how very exciting it is to witness an answer to prayer for the youth of that church. I know there is more work to be done through prayer and as the Bible says "far be it from me to sin against them by not praying for God's will to be done."

I encourage everyone who goes on a Mission Trip to pray in particular for the desires in your heart for other people to be blessed. Your joy on the trip will be tenfold as you witness answers to particular prayers as the Mission Trip unfolds.

-Andie Armstrong  
Chaperone

### Cross-Cultural Collision

IMPACT! That is the only way to describe what happened in McAllen, Texas: there was a collision. God made a difference there in ready hearts; the collision left a mark. Come with us and inspect this dent of eternal value and everlasting significance. Come and see the change.

It all started with a workshop at a local church called "Baptist Temple." We taught basic mime technique to the young people in one large pack before dividing into two groups to train songs. It struck us right away that these young people had a whole lot of potential; they rose quickly to whatever standard they were challenged to, learning and understanding what was being taught at an incredible speed. When we challenged them more, they rose up to even higher achievements. We could not have had a better group of young people to work with than these, with their willing, teachable attitudes.

The second day of the workshop we had the opportunity to go minister in Mexico. The young people in McAllen came along and put into practice what they had learned, presenting the gospel through mime in two separate locations and showing Christ's love by just spending a few minutes in an orphanage. It was a touching experience to see, interact and talk with these people, and see how they live their lives. By the end of the trip to Mexico we were able to see



several individuals come to know Jesus, but I think that even more who came to minister were different when we drove home. We were humbled to realize how economically blessed we are compared to these people, but also awed at the commitment of the believers there. Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Through a span of just two days working with the McAllen youth there were many relationships built, and bonds built up that cannot be broken. We were able to quickly establish meaningful friendships, especially with those who let us into their houses, talking about life, worship and the Bible rather than shallow things that don't matter. I believe God will use these relationships for a purpose as time goes on.

You see, through this Mission Trip and particularly at this location, God worked in, changed and transformed the lives of these young people. Others who only met us in passing were also impacted for eternity, and it was all because God was working through these youth who were diligent to seek Him in the workshops. What if each of us was as available to His call? Is your life being used by God as a living, breathing example of His power to transform? Let's step up and be that example; let God shine through our lives so others may be IMPACTED!

-Daniel Reyes, age 18  
Hesperia, CA

### Home Again, Home Again

Back home! Well, not our actual home, but rather Branson, now a sort of home away from home. We had a very warm welcome, but even after a five-week mission trip we went straight to work, preparing for a mime invasion of Branson on the ninth, and an open house on the tenth of July. God had a lot in store for the next few days!

Coming back to Branson was exciting! Our final meal as a full team awaited us, the perfect end to a long drive. Even though we still had a few days left until the mission trip was actually over, Megan and Aaron and little baby Aaric were leaving for home in San Diego the very next day. That night we reviewed the whole mission trip for the Headquarters staff, and we each shared how God had used our teammates as examples to us. It was a lot of fun. When this was all done we said our goodbyes to Megan and Aaron. It was sad, but we know they will continue to be a blessing in their home area.

Mimes are taking over Branson! Nearly seventy of us walked from store to store through downtown Branson, handing out gospel tracts, water, soda, and flyers on how AIM can be used in the community. While we did this others presented the gospel in various locations around the city. Toward the end of the day we took all our extra drinks down to the beach to hand out with tracts; they were all gone within the hour! It was an amazing

experience to be able to "revive" people with a drink that would only last awhile, but at the same time Revive them with Living Water that would last a life time (and beyond). After a long day of working for the Son (of God) in the sun, we all met together for a Rally! We took off our mime gear, had hot dogs and dessert, and shared testimonies of what God did throughout the day.

Clean! After such a long day in the sun we felt like stopping to rest, but we didn't. Instead we cleaned, preparing for the open house the next day. After church the next day we returned ready to shake lots of hands. Throughout the day we fellowshiped with those who came, and answered questions about the house and ministry. The Southeast team and a team from Apple Valley presented several songs to show the people what we do.



The team was closer now than ever, but the time had come to divide and conquer. We had had a lot of both great and difficult times together.

It was hard to say goodbye, but we did, knowing that God has a plan for each of us separately. We give God all the glory for what an amazing Mission Trip he brought us through, and will continue to look back on the many great memories. We thank God for bringing us through safely. We all walked away from this Mission Trip changed for life and ready to serve God on our next mission, whatever that may be.

-Kelly Stafford, age 15  
San Diego, CA

## AIM's Southeast Mission Trip Members

**Daniel Armstrong**, age 14  
Blacksburg, VA

**Elizabeth Armstrong**, age 17  
Blacksburg, VA

**Amanda Buschman**, age 17  
San Diego, CA

**Tim Paylor**, age 17  
San Diego, CA

**Daniel Reyes**, age 18  
Hesperia, CA

**Kelly Stafford**, age 15  
San Diego, CA

**Chaperone**  
**Andie Armstrong**  
Blacksburg, VA

**Drivers/Directors**  
**Aaron and Megan Sims**  
San Diego, CA

**Director**  
**Andrew Vandever**  
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...



Contact Us!

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