



## ACTION Impact Missions

# 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—Spring 2006

### The Journey Begins...

Our journey begins at Camp Ridgedale, where the students met for the first time. The first week of the Mission Trip is training camp. During this week we learn the songs that we will be teaching and presenting at each of our stops, as well as the Bibles studies and classes we will teach at each workshop. It's a time to prepare for the great adventure ahead of us.

It was incredible to see how everybody pulled together the first day, learning and working as a team. As the days went by the students learned more and more parts. The practices and training were very intense, but everyone did an excellent job. The songs were completed, and we were all ready to hit the road, and train others with what we had learned.

As the week went by, the students didn't just learn mime, they also put a lot of effort into preparing a Bible study, learning how to present it in a way that would make their peers think, and finding brought a change in their own lives. We also prepared to lead classes in several different creative ways to share the gospel, getting into the intricate technique behind mime, and the discipline necessary to sign language.

By the end of the week we were all ready to boldly go and present what we had learned throughout training Camp. We knew it would be an awesome experience to share the truth with others in a new way. We thanked God that we would have the opportunity to do this, and for the life-changing experience this Mission Trip would be for us.

Jorge and Kristi Madrigal  
Branson, MO

### Perfect in Weakness

The Southeast Mission Trip started with a big step this year, as we participated in a drama festival in Bowling Green, Kentucky. We arrived on the afternoon of March tenth, and went straight to the church where the festival was held.

We arrived and went to the room where we were to do three workshops the next day. The girls set up promotional material in the room while the guys unloaded props and equipment. We were there for awhile in the room, and practiced some of the mime skits until dinner. For dinner we went to a room outside a courtyard and went through a serving line. We quickly ate, then went and put on our mime make-up. I had never done this before, so the other

guys helped me. It was my first time wearing mime make-up, and it was weird; it has taken awhile to get used to, but I can put it on myself now. Next we got the props for the song "Via Dolorosa," and went backstage. We waited for a long time, and then finally we were told we were on next. I was extremely nervous as we walked on stage - there were so many people there. I focused on our task, and the song went fine. I found out there were over 1,600 people there, but thankfully I didn't know the actual number until afterwards. I have been told this is very unusual at the beginning of a Mission Trip: normally there would be a small presentation, but I guess God wanted us to start the Southeast Mission Trip big. Afterwards we took off our mime face, which was surprisingly difficult, then we left for the hotel.

The next morning we got up and left to do our workshops, starting the first one at 9:45. One person led the classes while we helped individual people who had trouble. There was a good turnout, and the groups seemed to really enjoy it. We also learned to plan better, and to work together. After our last workshop we had to get ready again for our last presentation at the drama festival. We thought we didn't have much time, so I ended up doing my own mime face. It wasn't easy, but it turned out well. I had just been changed from one part to another in the mime skit, so I was nervous again. I kept thinking through my cues over and over, getting ready. We walked onstage, and it started out fine. The beginning of the song went fine, but in the middle of the song one of the main parts wasn't set up right: Oh no! It didn't go at all as planned, but God helped us recover, the rest of the song was great, and we quietly left the stage.

Afterwards I was worried about the mistake, feeling sorry for myself, and gave us all hugs. I was amazed! We messed up, but God still worked through it.

Romans 8:28 - "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Phillip Drinkwater, age 14  
Pace, FL

### O, What to Do?

"Another regular school morning," thought one student at King Middle School. He arrived at school at the normal time, and went to the gym to meet with the rest of his class. In the

gym he found a group of teenagers, wearing maroon shirts with yellow crosses on them, but that didn't matter: he was talking with his friends. He was surprised when the teacher got up and announced that they would be doing a drama presentation for them. They all got in places, and the music started. He soon figured out that they were portraying the story of the guy Christians talk about, called Jesus, being whipped and nailed to a cross, and one of the actors said it had been done for everyone, including him. When they were done he continued to his classes, but the picture they put forward was still running through his mind.

This was one of the many places we visited in Burgin, Kentucky. Originally we hadn't planned on stopping in Burgin, but we were invited there for two days, and our schedule was still open. Shakertown Baptist Church was our first stop in that northern Kentucky town. Because this was my second time doing a presentation on the stage at the church, I noticed that for some reason the stage gets very hot by the end of the presentation. We gave it our best despite the heat, and God worked through us to bless the congregation.

Our hosts found a whole lot of places for us to present at during the one full day we were there. The first place was King Middle School. We needed to be there before eight o'clock, so we were up pretty early. It's really neat when the audience is noisy before we start, gets quiet when we begin, and walks out in silence when we're done. It's encouraging to know that everyone is deep in thought. That afternoon we had a chance to take a tour and do some volunteer work at a "Shaker" Village. It was really interesting to hear about how the Shakers would use special dances to purge themselves from their sin by "shaking the sin out." They also made everything from houses to tools to last a long time, because they believed Jesus would reside in their villages during His millennial reign. There are very few Shakers left though, because now they refuse any new members, and no one can be born a Shaker due to their commitment to celibacy. After dinner we helped at an Upward Basketball awards ceremony. We got the entertaining job of handing out glow sticks to each player who came in. It was neat to see how sports like basketball can be used as a ministry tool.

The other two places we visited were different because we got to talk and interact with the people before and after presentations. First was Haggin Memorial Hospital's extended care unit, a place for people with chronic illness or non-life-threatening injuries who are in need of long-term care. Everyone was silent during the presentation, and although they didn't talk to us a lot afterwards we could tell that they were very joyous to see high-schoolers out in ministry. The other presentation was at Harrodsburg Family Medical, an elderly care facility. Here the people talked more, and we were encouraged to hear how God had affected them through us.

We didn't know what we were going to do, so God sent us to Burgin, nearly giving us more than we could handle. Instead of boredom, our schedule was challenging us with all the places we went. God definitely had a purpose in sending us to Burgin, even though we didn't know what it was at first. God had all the presentations and service projects we would do planned out perfectly, as He always does!

Ryan Brown, age 15  
Wyoming, DE

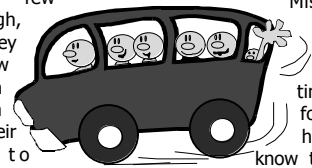
### Driven Ministry

Oh, what fun it is to ride in an eleven-passenger AIM van stuffed with eleven people and everything they need to live for five weeks. It can be pretty crazy, but also a great opportunity to experience God!

So, if everyone will sit back and relax, just pretend you're all stuffed between other people, holding your stuff in your lap and at your feet. Now you get to hear about the "behind the scenes" part of our car rides: where we go, what we do, and, of course, what we like to do in the car. Ready? Here we go!

The Southeast Mission Trip included some pretty long drives: Tennessee to Kentucky, back through Georgia, Florida and Louisiana, and up to Arkansas and Missouri. Sometimes we would drive for just an hour and get a few things done in the car, but other times we would be in the car for eight to ten hours and have a long time to get to know the people sitting next to us! So, what did we spend our ten-hour car rides doing? Well, I'm going to tell you!

First we would fit our two hours of schoolwork in, usually in the morning. Then we would practice and go over



our Bible studies, which we did at all our workshops: we had to make sure to have those imprinted into our brains. We would also do our daily team devotions, which were all on the Forty Standards of AIM. These usually led to some very deep, interested, and sometimes wacky discussions. We would often help each other think through things we never would have thought of otherwise. We all enjoyed it very much: our discussions started out very confusing at times, but by the end we had all learned something new. So, there are just a few of the many tasks we accomplished in the car.

In addition to all the work we did in the van, we also were able to spend time doing some really fun things in the car. One of these things is mail time: we didn't just get mail on the Mission Trip, we had to earn it by doing whatever crazy, weird, embarrassing thing the rest of the team could think up. We sang, danced, performed interpretive movement, and much more. It makes receiving mail an...occasion! Then there is Laffy Taffy Time, an AIM tradition. It involves singing, forced laughter, and lots of chewing noises, but we don't want to get too scary with the details. Once in a great while, when we had to start a drive early, we would have the incredible gift of an hour of sleep! Yes, we were all just as excited as you when we heard, too. One of the most important things we did in the car was to get out our prayer list for the trip, give out new prayer requests, and ask God to bless, heal, protect, and meet the needs of both the Mission Trip and everyone we had worked with.

Car rides were definitely used wisely, having time to both recharge and get lots done. Our trip was blessed by God as the van became our home away from home.

Matt Byrd, age 14  
Bakersfield, CA

### Beaches and Other Blessings

Next stop, Islamorada! It was beautiful and very hot. The first day we were there we got to go to the beach, and then left to go to our workshop. The last day we were there the students did a presentation for their parents, then we had a ceremony for the students. It was a real blessing to be on the island, teaching the kids.

Islamorada was both the prettiest and hottest place I've ever been to. The first day we got there we all got to go to the beach and enjoy being near the ocean. Before getting too close to the water we fit in some schoolwork. Then, after lunch, our local guides brought out seine nets and caught needle nose fish, crab, and a bunch of sea weed, which we got to study a bit. It was a really neat experience.

After being at the beach for awhile we had to get back and get ready for a workshop. I had the pleasure of helping teach sign language to a class of four. Our students learned two songs to

share at the final presentation. At the end of the workshop students came up to me and told me that they loved doing sign language, and definitely wanted to keep learning it. That was a real encouragement.

The last night we were there the students joined us in a presentation for their parents and other guests. The mime and sign language groups together learned a total of five songs in less than three days! After the presentation we gave certificates to honor the students for memorizing verses during the workshop. One girl at this stop was the only student of the entire Mission Trip to earn the highest degree. Diligence paid off, and it was a blessing to her and to us.

I do know our students learned a lot, because I had quite a few come back and thank me! That was a big blessing to our whole group, and especially to me. The students had an exceptional attention span, so we were able to teach them quickly. God blessed the students and us, and I praise Him for everything He has done. God gets the glory, because He shined through us to teach the students so many useful tools and lessons.

Quincey Burch, age 15  
Branson, MO

### The Beautiful Location of God's Creation

So, who's ready to go to Florida? I know we were looking forward to it! When's a better time to see God's creation than on a Mission Trip? Everyone is in a spiritual mindset, and we get to travel through such a variety of God's creation, it's been absolutely amazing! He has been using us to show Himself to others, and enabling us to bless a lot of people.

So, our next stop was Pensacola. As soon as we arrived we started our workshop with the eleven students who showed up. We started with our Bible studies, mime technique, sign language and gospel skit classes with the group. Through the workshop we did four Bible studies based on I Timothy 4:12, setting "an example for the believers in speech, life, love, faith and purity."

After we taught our students three different mime skits we had the opportunity to go to Loaves and Fishes, a local soup kitchen that provides food and shelter for the homeless. We presented three songs, and the kids from the workshop joined us in presenting the gospel. God showed Himself through the songs we did, and it was amazing to see God work through both them and us.

The students were very excited about both the workshop and the presentation, and that night the parents got to see the different things they had learned. Many of the families showed

interest in starting a team to keep working in their community. They had fun and learned a lot at the workshop, and wanted to keep on going, so we hope that God will help them start an AIM Team and keep serving Him through it.

We were really able to see God while in Florida, by the beauty in nature, the lives we were able to touch through our songs, and the hearts of the people with whom we worked. I was happy to see the kids from the workshop want to learn the songs and to spread the gospel. We look forward to another workshop next year, and we are confident in all the people who participated, that they will continue to be a blessing to their families, church and community.

Matt Byrd, age 14  
Bakersfield, CA

### Tammany Hands Make Light Work

Dust fills the air, and drywall falls in heaps as seven young people demolish the inside of a house found within the hurricane Katrina damage zone. Tammany Oaks Church of Christ in particular has been organizing for volunteers since hurricane Katrina left people in need of help. Praise be to God for the Christ-like service that is being seen because of this disaster!

The damage is still being repaired: rubble heaps can be found on almost every corner, and many houses have not even begun to be cleaned. At TOCC, stories were shared of houses full of damaged furniture and appliances. All volunteers, including ACTION Impact Missions, were given instructions for preparation and work:

- 1) Pray for the owners of the house.
- 2) The houses will stink – be brave.
- 3) Never open refrigerators!
- 4) Always wear a dust mask.
- 5) Drink lots of water.
- 6) Work hard!

Behind Tammany Oaks' worship center an arsenal of tools waited to be taken by working hands. Mountains of gloves, boots, shovels and hammers were assigned and sent to job sites. At 8:30 AM all volunteers were on the road. All the gear was up and out, and soon walls of mold and dirt stood facing our team.

The water mark in the house we were set to work on was seven feet high! With the first blow of a crowbar, drywall fell, and the poor house set off on the road to repair. Seven hours later all the water-damaged carpeting and wall material was heaped in the front yard. Our clothes showed the evidence of hard work. Several months from now, this house and many more like it, spread all across the hurricane Katrina damage zone, will be fully repaired! Throughout the neighborhood other volunteers were also working to bless

others through hard work and Christ-like attitudes.

God's people are a huge part of recovery for those affected by hurricane Katrina. Praise be to God for his plans! Hurricane Katrina was not only a trial, but also an opportunity for God's people to respond in love, meeting the needs of others for the glory of God. ACTION Impact Missions is one of the tools God is using for His glory, and we were excited to be a part of His work!

Rebecca Turner, age 21  
Pine Mountain, CA

### A Beautiful Relationship

After we left from doing relief work in the New Orleans area, we went to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to help with Friend Ships. They're a non-profit organization that takes clothes, medicine, and other much-needed supplies to places that need it. The large amount of supplies they transport requires the use of ships. Right now they are preparing to go to Cuba, Haiti, and Israel. They have five ships, and we stayed on the Spirit, one of the larger ones.

We arrived mid-day and were shown to our rooms, then to the cafeteria for lunch. We met the ship crew, and went to work alongside them right after eating. The guys got to sort food that had been given to help with relief efforts, and the girls helped out in the galley. At the end of the day I was exhausted, and couldn't wait to go to bed.

For the next two days we were busy with similar work. The second day we were invited to do a presentation for the crew in the morning. It seemed like that really blessed them. While we were there I learned a lot. The people at Friend Ships are true servants, and do so much for absolutely no pay! We could all learn from their example.

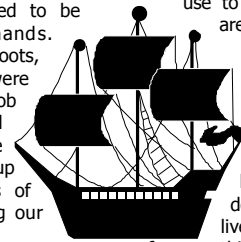
Friend Ships is very unique in the way they get the things they use and the things they send for relief. Almost everything they get is donated. The food, clothes, and even the ships they use to transport everything. They are a great example of God's provision when His people rely on Him.

We definitely got to know God better through our time at Friend Ships, and look forward to seeing Him do big things through our lives, as well, as we trust Him for everything.

Phillip Drinkwater, age 14  
Pace, FL

### Texarkana?

Let's see, where's the AIM Team going now? What, Siloam Springs? What's happening in northwest Arkansas? Actually, quite a bit, including the North-West Arkansas Christian Home Educators Association (NWACHEA – say that three times fast!) annual conference, and ACTION Impact Missions is there! We had the



opportunity to lead two workshops in basic mime technique, help with set-up and tear-down, and attend several other workshops. One of the many things we learned at this stop is that God can make an impact with however many or few people he chooses to bring to our workshop.

We arrived at the conference area an hour early, and immediately began our work. Volunteering to help the people there in setting up their booths was one of the best parts of being there. We did a lot of odd jobs like taping cords to the floor, and it was really neat getting to know some of the retailers. Soon after that was our first workshop. Only four students came, but because they had all done drama before they caught on very well. Next we visited a few other workshops about various topics. In one we watched a puppet group with glow-in-the-dark puppets, and in another learned how and why to "discipline our children." Disciplining children gains respect for authority and teaches children the importance of obedience. Even though we can't "discipline our children" yet, we were able to store the information for future use, and even learn important lessons for how we relate with others right now. Our other workshop was on the second day of the conference; three girls came, and each of their mothers were there also. After we finished teaching the girls the technique and a song, the moms prayed for us, and seemed very excited about the ministry. They hope to start a group in their town soon.

We did a few things outside of the conference, too. One night the guys got to play basketball with the host family, and the next morning we went on a three-mile hike to a stream and back. We also had the chance to visit the one-and-only Wal-Mart museum. It was really interesting to learn the principles behind Wal-Mart, and how they formed such a successful company. There were also displays about where Wal-Mart has gone internationally so far, and about the achievements and awards the company has received.

After all the workshops were completed and distributors were packing up, we got to help with cleaning up. We were able to do many jobs, such as moving boxes, getting a piano to a truck, carrying tables to their place, and setting chairs back up in the main hall. All the people we were able to help were extremely grateful for what we did. Carrying boxes of books is always a fun job for me!

At the beginning of the Mission trip we had been planning on having several stops in Texas. We were all disappointed when they fell through, but now we know God had a reason for sending us to Arkansas instead. At this stop we saw that God was more concerned about quality instead of quantity. It has been said many times, but now we've experienced how God's plans are different from ours, and more wonderful than we can imagine.

Ryan Brown, age 15  
Wyoming, DE

### Coming out of our Shell

We arrived in a hilly place called Shell Knob on April 2, 2006. It was a very nice, cool afternoon, made complete by a gentle breeze. During our time in Shell Knob we got to present at a local church, take an educational field trip, and lead a workshop for young Christians in the community.

After we arrived and got settled at the church we had to get props set and ready for the presentation. The presentation that evening went well. The sound equipment messed up at one point, but we were able to work through it, and overall the presentation went great!

The next day we got to go to a fish hatchery, and it was very fun. A girl from the workshop got to go with us, and learned a little more about the ministry during our trip. We also had the privilege to eat lunch by a stream with different types of fish in it, then we got to feed the fish and go see a beautiful blue spring. We wrapped up with a short hike, then headed back to the church.

After returning we got ready for a workshop later that afternoon. The kids had a great attention span, and did a great job. It was a blessing to work with the kids and get to know some of them a little more. Our students did a great job with all their songs, especially "Courtroom," which they had just learned hours before. All of them learned four songs in two days, and they also fit in verse memorization. After the presentation we did a small ceremony for the kids who had memorized verses, honoring their achievements. We were tired as we took our mime faces off and went to our homes for the night.

I know all the workshop students learned new ways to share their faith and were challenged to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ. I was proud of how well they did, having only learned everything in two days. God is good, and blessed the workshop, making it very successful.

Quincey Burch, age 15  
Forsyth, MO

### Home Sweet Home

When we finished with the workshop in Shell Knob we were excited to turn our van towards Branson, MO. Branson is home for half the Mission Trip team, so we looked forward to seeing familiar faces and showing off our town to the rest of the team.

As soon as we arrived in Branson we were scheduled to volunteer at Branson Fest. This is a festival held every year to promote tourism by bringing together all the entertainers and things to do in one place. So, to help with this huge event we donned bright orange vests and two-way radios, and helped with directing cars into parking spaces. The Branson AIM Team was able to present to an audience of 200 visitors, giving them the message of Jesus

Christ, in stark contrast to the other acts, many of which focused on broken hearts and pointless lives. Between the Mission Trip and local team we were able to set the example in service both on and off the stage!

On our second day in Branson we parked cars for about four hours, until a large thunderstorm arrived, and everyone poured into the theater to seek shelter from the rain. We left early and went to a church to start our first day of a workshop. Everyone at the workshop was on the Branson team, so we did our best to teach them new techniques, and were even able to teach them some new songs. On the second day we added one more person to our group, a young lady considering joining the Branson team, and finished with a small presentation of what they had learned.

While in Branson we also were able to see some of the sights. As you drive down the main strip of Branson you see many strange and interesting things, from an almost full-scale model of the Titanic, to a novelty museum made to look like the building is crumbling, to every kind of show you could possibly imagine. Everyone was amazed at the entertainment Branson has to offer. Overall Branson was a lot of hard work, but it was also lots of fun. We were able to serve so others could present the gospel, and we also met and encouraged the Branson AIM Team. While we were sad to watch Branson fade out the back window we know God is working in Branson through the ministry, and we're excited to see what's next.

Jorge and Kristi Madrigal  
Branson, MO

### There and Back Again

God's sovereignty and faithfulness toward us have been the hallmark of the Southeast Mission Trip 2006. Before, during and after the mission, in cold and hot weather, through overwhelmingly large workshops and extra-small ones, God has been there with us. Before we were even expecting some of our stops, God was there, preparing the way for us.

Would this not hold true at the end of the trip? No, even as the students were preparing to fly home, and we to drive back to Branson, I knew that God was preparing the way for us. And of course, He came through! Team members had opportunities to use tools we'd learned on the trip to share their faith during the ride home, and God gave us both ministry opportunities and protection as we traveled home.

The Southeast Mission Trip may be over, but the lessons that each of us learned will only set in deeper as God continues to grow, stretch and use us, no matter where we are.

Andrew Vandever  
Branson, MO

All articles edited by Andrew Vandever

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## 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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