

# SPOTLIGHT

Good News Chapel Monthly Newsletter » **First Time in Haiti // Second Time in India // Third Time in Mississippi**

## First Time in Haiti

**By David Yang**

This summer, GNC had the amazing opportunity to partner with the Global Orphan Project in our first missions trip to Haiti. In the weeks leading up to our trip, I earnestly prayed and asked God to break my heart for the people of Haiti. Almost immediately upon landing in Port au Prince, God started working.

One of the first people I had the opportunity to see in Haiti was my brother, Andrew. You see, he had been working in Haiti for the past three months as a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) staff member. Not having seen him in such a long time, I was genuinely shocked to see him waiting for us at the airport. Having lost another 15 pounds, my brother looked a small semblance of his old self. But my arms were quick to embrace his unfamiliar frame. And while I wanted so desperately wanted for him to come home, I knew that his work in Haiti was not yet done. I was quickly reminded that God's work is being done in even the most remote places of this earth and it was amazing to know that my own brother was doing his part in advancing the kingdom.

Our ministry with the orphans started almost immediately after. Mere hours after our arrival, we visited our first orphanage. Soon enough, we were dancing, singing and playing with the children. As soon as they saw us, the children would run to us and grab hold of us. And their heart-warming embrace seemingly never ended. To say the least, it was hard to contain my emotions. To be quite honest, this was a bit different from what I had expected. Let me explain.

During our trip, I had the wonderful opportunity to take photos of our team. Essentially, it was my

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## Second Time in India

**By John Pyun**

Ever since I returned from India last summer I knew that I wanted to go again. I fell in love with the country and with the people and even though our church has many awesome opportunities and locations for missions I knew that India was the place for me. I would set out to pray for those that our team had met and for God's mission in India but would always end up finding myself also praying that God would give me the opportunity to return. Imagine my joy and my amazement at answered prayer when a year later I found myself again on a flight to India!

One of the things that I was praying for on this second trip was to not be so distracted by the sights and smells (yes, smells!) and the novelty of the country but to go more mission focused and with a greater boldness for sharing the gospel. From the moment we stepped outside of the airport at Cochin into the humid air, the kind of humidity you can taste, things felt different from last year. There was still an excitement but this year it did not feel like I was stepping into a foreign country but rather as if I were returning home after a long time away; how I imagine a panda raised in a zoo might feel when it is released back into the wild. I felt free, I didn't feel so inhibited and preoccupied with worldly things and found myself acting in ways that I know my 2k10 self would've been surprised by. I was able to minister with more

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## Third Time in Mississippi

**By Stacey Kim**

I didn't think going to Mississippi for the third time would be much different than my previous years. I even asked myself if there is still a purpose for short term missions...at least in my life. Maybe I have experienced it all and I can be the sender now? So I actually went to Mississippi this year thinking it would be my last time to Mississippi and also my last time on short term missions.

But like many other times in my life...I was wrong. God showed me the importance of going away from home to serve him, even if it is for 1 week out of the year, and how I can grow in love and compassion for the Canton community as I get to know them better each year I go. God has no favorites and he is so unconditional. I think when I go year after year, I see God's consistent love for this community.

I'm blessed that I can go, and God has a plan for the time that I'm there. He definitely does not waste any time in showing me new things or in giving me a different perspective of how I am to live each day at home. He shows me the conditions that people live in over in Canton, and in that, I see God's heart...his love for the Lost, and his compassion towards them and helps me to grow in that same love and compassion.

Going back to Mississippi is really a privilege. It's amazing what happens when relationships and trust builds. When Cocoa, the friend I made 3 years ago, 19 years old now, took me to her home to meet her mom, aunt, cousin...I really felt like she trusted me and wanted me to get to know her better in the context of how she lives. We text each other all the time, and it's encouraging to get to know each other throughout the year like that and then meet again during the summer and catch up.

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*cont. of "First Time in Haiti" by David Yang*

responsibility to capture moments with the children and to tell a story of our time there. In preparation of our trip, I had spent some time trying to figure out what kind of story to tell, how to take pictures in light of that theme and to prepare myself for taking those types of pictures. Having seen the devastation of the January 2010 earthquake on the news, I expected the worst. I expected long, drawn faces coupled with muted responses from the orphans. But what our team experienced was anything but.

In each of the children's eyes and in each of their smiles, there was a profound hope. I couldn't explain it. I hurriedly started capturing what I saw. Photo after photo and image after image, the message was clear: these children had a hope for a better tomorrow.

Day by day, I learned more and more of the resolve and dedication of the Haitian people. To me, it seemed that the orphans had lost everything. They had lost their parents, their siblings, their homes, and their lives. I have always had the blessing of growing up in a loving family, with amazingly supportive parents and an awesome brother. And to be honest, the thought of not having them here with me on this earth has never really broached my mind before this trip. Seeing the remnant destruction of the earthquake, the thought of losing my loved ones unexpectedly became a startling reality. However even in this painful thought, I was quickly reminded that God is everything and that the only everlasting hope is in Him.

Going to Haiti, I expected to share with the orphans about the great love of our God. But really, it was the children who really taught me about God's providential love. I now know that God has blessed me with people whom I love so that in them, I could learn to love God even more. And for that, I am thankful more and more each day to cherish the times I do have with my family and friends.

Having been able to go to Haiti and come back, I can earnestly say that while I went to Haiti with a broken heart, I came home with an enduring vision of hope. God is at work in Haiti, in India, in Mississippi and in every part of the world. And the great news is that our hope in Him is everlasting. †

*cont. of "Second Time in India" by John Pyun*

singleness of purpose and tried to leave nothing on the table but gave all my effort in our VBS and skits, in getting over my insecurities and speaking with strangers. I was much more conscious the second time around of how quickly three weeks can pass and wanted to make myself available for use by God.

People often ask, "What can you really accomplish in a few (hours/days/weeks) on mission?" The answer is nothing. But the good news is that with God, anything! We had the opportunity to visit many of the same locations as last year and to see how God has been building His kingdom in India. One such location was Grace Mission School in Vizianagram. It was such a joy to see the school and the children I had prayed for and to see their growth. Last year we were only able to spend a few hours at this school but one of the coolest things was that when we played one of the VBS songs we did last year the kids burst out in the motions and singing! They remembered! They remembered us, they remembered the songs, how much more would they remember the message of the great love of Jesus Christ! It is easy to feel discouraged when doing ministry with feelings that the ministry is fruitless but in returning to this school I was encouraged and able to see first-hand and experience how God had used us. I was rebuked for my lack of faith and was reminded to honor God by trusting in Him. If you have the blessed opportunity to go on a mission trip, by all means take it. If you have the heart and a chance to go for a second time to the same location, please do. There is so much joy in seeing your Christian brothers and sisters again, in seeing how God has been working in these areas, to see the fruit and answers to your prayers; it is a completely different experience. Last year I left part of my heart behind in India and went back this year hoping to find it but ended up with an even bigger heart for missions and for India. Good thing this time around I got the 10 year visa! †

*cont. of "Third Time in Mississippi" by Stacey Kim*

I can never leave out the fact that I learn so much from our hosts Pastor Jasper Bacon and his wife Carolyn. I learned specifically this time that they sure do have a pure desire to love God and to daily grow in their relationship with Him. They go through the same trials and hardships as we do here in luxurious SoCal...but they love God and strive after him. I was really encouraged by this because that should really be a prayer of all Christians, not just a "missionary." Their service is so steadfast and constant. It's hard to really be able to experience that by going just once.

This being my third time, not only do I have a bond with my team that truly is unforgettable and awesome, but also with the Bacons and some of the children that come back each year. I feel like I am a part of In His Steps Ministries and serving with them gets easier and easier and my excitement and joy to see some of the familiar faces again some day only encourages me to pray for them more until I see them again, real soon. †