



# DBU'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE

## Students Spend Fall Break on Mission around the World

**D**uring his fourth day in Jamaica, DBU sophomore Josh Dodderer had to do the unthinkable: deny medical care to a woman in need. It was not his choice, but there was no room left at the clinic where he was volunteering. The woman had a severe rash, no shoes and, from what it seemed, no hope.

"That moment when we had to tell her that we couldn't give her care was really heartbreaking but, at the same time, allowed me to do so much," Dodderer explained. "I was able to pray for her and, immediately after, she actually got to be seen. We showed her the impact of prayer and opened the door to share the Gospel with her at the clinic."

Dodderer, along with 23 other DBU pre-med and pre-nursing students, traveled to Jamaica during the school's

fall break to take part in a seven-day medical mission trip, in partnership with Ambassador International Ministry (AIM).

"This was new territory for us because we've never done a medical mission trip before," said Chris Holloway, director of global missions at DBU.

Throughout their time in Jamaica, the DBU team set up temporary clinics in different locations throughout the city of Kingston, providing free check-ups, dental care, or simple operations for the poor in the community. Serving as assistants for the medical teams with AIM, the students had the chance to work with patients in the rooms, as well as interact with the adults and play with the kids in the waiting area.

"The parents appreciated how we loved on their children. We were very intentional with sharing the Gospel with them while they were there," Holloway said.

During the week, the clinics served more than 300 people, with nearly 50 individuals making decisions to follow Christ. The patients, though, were not the only people who walked away from the experience transformed.

"We definitely took opportunities to share the Gospel and help them physically through medical care, but I was touched as well, and that was the biggest thing I took away," said Erika Erickson, a sophomore biology major.

Ultimately, the trip was beneficial for all who participated. They gained hands-on experience in their field of study, while also incorporating their faith and making an impact in people's lives.

"A lot of people who want to be doctors want to do it because it's financially secure and very respected. But going on this trip gave us all a new perspective because we're not so focused on the financial status of it all or the societal status anymore, but how much more we can contribute to people as the Body of Christ. We were able to give a sense of purpose to our service," Dodderer said.

Many students felt that God confirmed their call to the medical field on this trip, while others felt that God confirmed that they should seek a different path.

"That's a victory as well," Holloway said. "The hope of all our trips is to integrate faith with field-based learning, and it's important that students come to terms with the gifts God has given them and how they can apply it to their vocations."

**T**he Dallas Baptist Men's Basketball and the Patriot Cheerleading Teams left late on Friday, October 4, for a seven-day mission trip to the nation of Chile. The trip was part of DBU's Global Sports Mission Initiative, which was designed to give student athletes opportunities to share the love of Christ overseas.

"I am excited to see the spiritual growth and development that my team experienced together this week," said Michelle Grose, DBU cheerleading coach.

The DBU teams spent the first four days of their trip in Antofagasta, a port city located 700 miles north of the nation's capital of Santiago. While



there, they worked with local students at three different schools by helping in English support classes, leading basketball and cheer clinics, performing in talent showcases and tournaments, and looking for opportunities to share their faith with others.

On Monday the Men's Basketball Team played in a four-team tournament at Sokol Stadium. The Patriots emerged victorious, with a final score of 80-50 in the championship game. During half time at each game, the DBU Cheerleaders performed, and members of the Patriots Basketball Team took turns sharing their testimonies with the approximate 700 fans who had gathered to watch the event.

"Our players and cheerleaders were afforded so many opportunities to share their faith with others," reflected Blake Flickner, DBU head basketball coach, after the tournament. "It was truly a blessing."

They spent Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning performing in basketball and cheerleading "exhibitions" and conducting basketball and cheer clinics with the students at Grace College, taking breaks for the players to share their personal testimonies with the students.

"Being in Chile has really encouraged me in my faith as I have seen some of these young kids grow spiritually in such a short time. We had several moments where we have been able to share the Gospel through our personal stories," explained James Erger, DBU graduate student assistant coach. "This has been a humbling experience for me personally and for many of our players."

Nearly 600 fans gathered Thursday evening at the Olympic Center of Chile, where the Patriots faced off against the

Catholic University of Santiago, the second best basketball team in all of Chile. The Patriots remained within 10 points of CUS throughout the first half of this exciting game and closed the gap to only four points in the last quarter. In the end, however, CUS proved themselves by defeating the Patriots 82-74.

"The basketball experience was perfect as we were able to be challenged and pushed," stated Flickner. "We saw some things that we need to work on, but we also had some success and had a lot of fun."

The DBU Cheerleaders also performed with excellence throughout the trip while pouring into the lives of others. "Our time in Chile has been wonderful for each of our girls and for the program as a whole," reflected Grose. "We have been able to love on these students and share our love of Christ and our personal testimonies through our life experiences and through cheer. God has truly blessed our time here in Santiago."

On Friday two separate groups of 80-100 students gathered at Grace College to wish the DBU students a tearful goodbye. During this time, several cheerleaders and basketball players shared their testimonies with those assembled, and Erger and Jay Harley, dean of students and spiritual life, delivered farewell sermons.

"Chile was an incredible experience," said Brandon Curran, DBU associate head basketball coach. "I was so proud of our players and cheerleaders,



and I pray that God will use this experience to deepen their faith and give them more boldness in talking about Christ with people here in the U.S."

This marks the twelfth mission trip sponsored by the DBU Athletic Department since the Global Sports Mission Initiative began in 2007.

## STUDYING AROUND THE WORLD

DBU students have numerous opportunities throughout their degrees to explore the world via study-abroad classes. Over the years, students have traveled to countries including England, France, India, Bangladesh, Brazil, Guatemala, China, Korea, and Russia.

During Fall Break of 2013, 12 students made their way to Spain and to Japan to take part in study-abroad trips.

Dr. Rebecca Dark, DBU associate professor of English, took a group of students to Barcelona, Spain. There they studied the lives of Spanish and Moroccan women, as well as sites

related to the Spanish Civil War and Spanish and Moroccan literature. They also had the chance to engage in mission work with the Moroccan immigrant community living in Barcelona.

Another group of students traveled to Japan, sponsored by Mamo Ishida, director of the DBU M.Ed. in Higher Education program. Studying the history and culture of Japan, the group visited Tokyo, Kyoto, and Okayama, and had a moving visit to the city of Hiroshima. In addition, they had the opportunity to engage in social education activities with students from Okayama University, helping both sets of students learn cross-cultural communication skills.