

SMP

summer mission program

alumni

news

Summer/Fall 2003

Christian Reformed World Missions



SMP 2003

The Summer Mission Program exposes students to cross-cultural missions and puts them in touch with real missionaries on the field. God again paved the way for 29 students to minister on four different mission fields. Ten went to Nigeria, seven to the Philippines, nine to Eastern Europe and three to Kazakhstan. It was an honor to have SMP alumna Brenda Heyink support the Eastern Europe team and our own Trish DeJong from the Canada office lead the team to Kazakhstan. We were surprised and encouraged by God's provision of the opportunity for ministry in Kazakhstan when the China trip was cancelled due to the SARS epidemic.

A special thank-you to this year's teams for committing the summer of 2003 to serving Jesus far from home. We believe God is using the Summer Mission Program to advance His Kingdom around the globe and to challenge or confirm a personal "call" to mission service both at home and abroad.

At World Missions, we often refer to "A Summer, A Year, A Career." Now that you've done the summer, is God calling you to a year? A Career?

NIGERIA



One of my favorite memories was watching an "ibana"; a community effort of men working on a large piece of land with traditional hand-held hoes. They dig and walk to the beat of a drum so that it looks more like dancing than working. When I gave it a try, I sent most of the boys and men into fits of laughter!!

Although I was a little scared about spending my summer in remote Africa, I could not have asked for a more blessed adventure. I look forward to the day that God sends me back into missions (maybe even back to Mahula!)

By Alida Fernhout, Nigeria 2002





SMP 2003 Team Photo

Front row: Carolyn Sybesma, Linnea Vincent, Diana Bouma, Ruth Dekker, Rachel Weening, Erin Stellingwerff, Jeremy Van Dyke, David Van Ee
Middle row: Jessica Clevering, Katherine Timmermans, Anna Bosch, Erin Temple, Margaret Retsema, Tara Van Weelden, Erica Van Daalen, Chris Kingma, Brenda Heyink, Sharon Bemis
Back row: Kincso (Helen) Borgyos, Emily Gaspar, Tricia De Jong (CRWM Canada Leader), Rebecca Clark, Christine Bosma, Kristin Vanden Hoek, Kim Baker, Maria Beversluis, Lindsay Vandersteen, Amy Bosgraaf, Lauren Colyn,
Not pictured: Christopher De Young

World Mission's Summer Mission Program and Encounters

We are pleased to announce that Christian Reformed World Missions' Summer Mission Program is now offered in cooperation with Encounters. For more information, log on to encountergodscall.org.



Where in the World Are You?

We at World Missions want to stay in touch with you. Please take a minute to fill out the information below, cut along the dotted line, and return this form in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

Name: _____

Your SMP year: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____

ROMANIA



Every morning my group and I walked to camp past our neighbor, an old man whose name I never learned. He spent much time sitting on his front bench, watching time pass by. Having learned a greeting of respect, I took the risk of being too loud and called it out to him. The old man immediately sat up straight, smiled broadly, and called the greeting in return. I began to look forward to our greetings and enjoyed his smile and missed them both when he wasn't on his bench.

A few days before we left the village, I picked some flowers from our yard and tucked my camera under my arm. I walked across the street and greeted him as he sat on his bench. I offered him the flowers and he took them carefully from my hand. I pointed at my camera and asked him for a photo. He nodded, sitting up real tall and holding out his flowers with seeming pride. They were only a few small flowers, but they made him smile, and he taught true contentment to an American girl in a small [Romanian] village.

By Judy Hertgers, 2002 SMP Eastern Europe

Be looking for your next SMP news in Winter/Spring 2004