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CEDARS

The Award-Winning Student News Publication of Cedarville University

April 2017

Missions At A Glance: CEDARS COVERS MISSIONS IN CEDARVILLE AND ABROAD IN THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL ISSUE.



Also Inside:

- MISSIONS V. MINISTRY: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
- LEARN HOW PEOPLE MINISTER TO THE WORLD FROM HOME THROUGH REFUGEE MINISTRIES.



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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ATTRIBUTE OF GOD?

“I love to consider the unity of God’s attributes. The interconnected nature of God’s character is a beautiful mystery that allows us to grasp the dynamic scope of God’s inner life. The God who burns with holiness also brims with mercy. The one we fear is the one who calls us to draw near.

The God who is light is the God who is love. The perfections of God are not like the petals of a flower that can be pulled apart but rather like the facets of a diamond that God through special revelation allows us to behold.”

Ched Spellman, assistant professor of biblical and theological studies

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

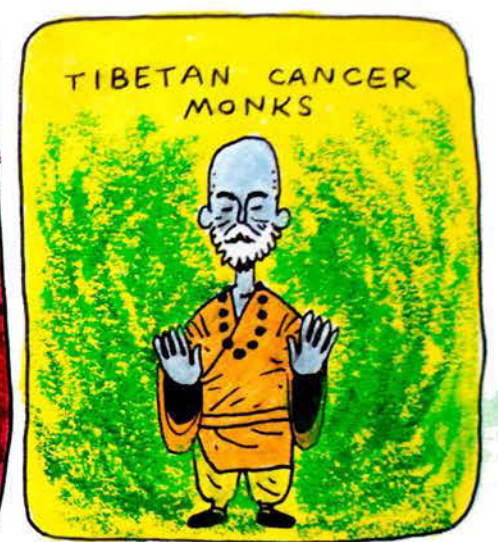
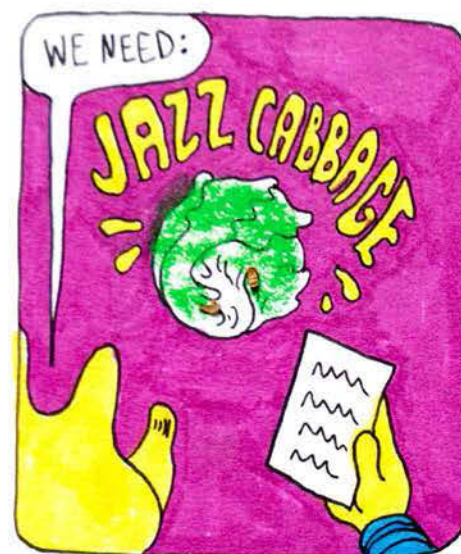
Check Out Our Missions-themed Multimedia Content



View photos of from a trip in which Cedarville sent a team to serve in Guatemala this past spring break.



Watch Erica Zichi's video story about how Cedarville places a major emphasis on the importance of serving in a ministry and offers a variety of ministries opportunities for students to get involved in.



BY BRIAN MCCRAY

Athletes for Christ

Cedarville's basketball team has been going to the mission field since 1971



Photo provided by Pat Estep

Cedarville's basketball team stands in front of the Roman Colosseum during a much needed break between games and mission activities on their trip to Italy last summer.

by Josh Burris
and Tim Miller

The Cedarville men's basketball team has been going on mission trips since the summer of 1971 when Dr. Don Callan was the team's head coach. The idea for the Cedarville basketball mission trips came from Callan and retired Lt. Gen. Loren Reno, who was playing at the time.

Callan went on a basketball mission trip to Taiwan when he was a player at Taylor University. Reno, Cedarville's vice president for academics, went on a mission trip to South America in the spring of 1970 with another team. Reno figured, "why couldn't Cedarville do a trip?" Other players on the team had been on mission trips in the past, and all of their experiences formed the idea for Cedarville's team.

Callan said short-term and sports mis-

sion trips were still a new idea to people.

"At that time, you didn't do things like that," Callan said. "Short-term missions was not highly proclaimed because it took money from the real missionaries and you are going to have fun."

Athletes in Action was not born yet. Fellowship of Christian Athletes was still in its infant stages.

"It was not my idea necessarily, but I developed beyond what my coach did," Callan said. "Boy did it become a big movement."

Dr. James T. Jeremiah, Cedarville's president at the time, bought into the ideas Callan had and they were off for their first trip in 1971.

In the first year, the team went to Japan, China, Taiwan and the Philippines. They called themselves Athletes for Christ. The team featured intercollegiate players

and intramural players who had a heart for missions. The team played 45-50 games in a six-week period. Sometimes they would play two or three in a day.

The team had a few obstacles they had to overcome while overseas. The first was the language barrier. The team had to use a translator, who was usually a local pastor or missionary that knew the language. The team found it easier to communicate by using words with one or two syllables as well as slowing down their speech.

"Most in the Philippines had an understanding of English and wanted to practice," Reno said. "So we turned the conversation to eternal matters."

It was also difficult to find safe drinking water. Staying hydrated was important since some of the places the team played were tropical locations. They couldn't let their starters play the whole time for hydra-

tion purposes.

The team also had to carry its equipment everywhere to make sure it didn't get stolen. Some of the countries overseas did not make shoes big enough for the American players. Reno wore a size 12 and would not have been able to find replacement shoes if his were stolen.

Reno said they were able to lead dozens of people to the Lord on the trip through basketball. He said the trip was encouraging to them and made them want to continue to lead people to Christ.

"It gave us a passion for soul winning, it gave us a passion for missions," Reno said. "We have always had a special place in our hearts for missions ever since."

Reno said the experience from those trips has helped him share his faith here in the States.

"It emboldened me to share the gospel

MISSIONS AT A GLANCE: THE BEGINNING

here,” Reno said. “It opened our eyes to the challenges missionaries have. My wife and I have found it important to give to missions. It has had a special place in my heart.”

One experience Reno said he remembers well was from when they played in Iloilo, Philippines. They were playing on an outdoor court across the street from a prison. Reno noticed some of the prisoners looking out to see what they were doing.

“I decided I was going to get my guitar and see if I could go across the street into the prison,” Reno said.

Callan said he thought it was a long shot.

“I said ‘Loren get real, you’ll never get into the prison,’” Callan said.

Reno decided to try anyway. He knocked on the door and someone who knew English answered. Reno told him he would like to talk with some of the prisoners, but he was rejected at first because it was almost supper time. Reno asked again since it was just “almost” supper time if he could come in and stay until it was. The worker granted him access.

In a half hour, Reno was able to sing a couple songs and share his testimony to some of the prisoners.

“I believe to this day the Lord opened the prison door so I could give the gospel to those prisoners,” Reno said. “God prepared the way before me.”

Callan said it took courage for Reno to go somewhere that was full of uncertainty.

“I didn’t know what a prison was like over there,” Callan said. “He was brave enough to take initiative to do things like that.”

Reno went on two more trips as a player and one more when he was stationed in the Philippines during his time in the Air Force when he was on leave.

Callan continued to do missions with the team until he retired in 1995. The team still continues to do mission trips today, but things are a little bit different

In 2012, Cedarville University joined the NCAA on the Division II level. With the jump to a full-time NCAA program, Cedarville had to adjust to the NCAA’s mandates.

The NCAA only allows a team to go on a foreign trip once every four years. Because of that, head coach Pat Estep had to make

his trips count.

Last year, Estep took his crew to Italy. He wanted the Yellow Jackets to play solid competition while also having the opportunity to minister to people in Italy.

One Cedarville player already had a connection to Italy. Sophomore forward Gabriel Portillo is a native of Italy, and his parents are currently serving as missionaries there.

Estep was able to take his team to Portillo’s parents’ church camp, and the team helped serve at the camp.

“We helped them painting two buildings, played games with the campers each night and did some street evangelism one evening,” Estep said.

Outside the camp, the Yellow Jackets handed out tracts in Italian and also took the opportunity to tour Venice.

Estep said what the players experienced was exactly what he intended.

“I want the basketball to be valuable, to have organized opportunity for ministry and to challenge the guys to get out of their comfort zone,” Estep said.

The trips aren’t just for the players. The coaching staff gets just as much out of the trips as their players.

“They are wonderful because of the opportunity to see your players grow spiritually, get out of their comfort zone and see God move in your team,” Estep said.

As Estep gears up for his team’s next visit, he said he’s unsure of where they might travel to. Multiple players are planning to go on trips with Athletes In Action until Cedarville’s next trip, and Estep said it depends on what kind of connections he can make when trying to get the right combination of basketball and missions.

Josh Burris is a senior journalism major and the sports editor for Cedars. He is interested in sports broadcasting and reporting. He enjoys watching sports, lifting, and listening to rock and rap music.

Tim Miller is a freshman journalism student at Cedarville University. Tim loves anything that has to do with sports, and hopes to write about sports for a career after graduating from Cedarville.



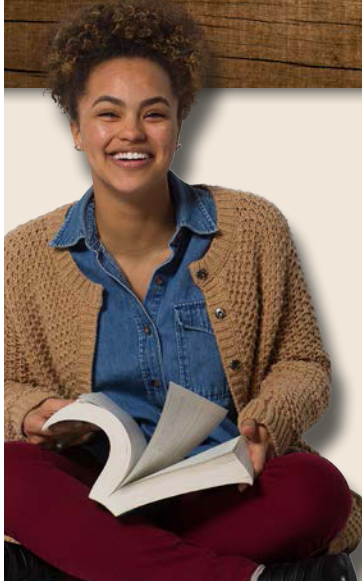
Photo provided by Pat Estep

The team helped repair some buildings and paint them as part of their ministry in Italy.

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The Other Side of the Field

Missions perspectives from those who grew up overseas

by *Rebekah Erway and Emily Day*

For some students here at Cedarville, missions is more than just a concept or a future plan. These MKs, or missionary kids, and internationals have seen some of what the work of missionaries is like on the other side of the field. Growing up in the midst of missions gave them some insights about it. Some names and country names have been altered or withheld to protect those in secure locations.

Abbie Belcher

Abbie Belcher, a senior math major, only served with her family in Hungary for two years. However, that in no way minimized the impact it had on her life.

“Being introduced to so many different cultures just opens your eyes to how the Lord is working in different areas of the world,” Belcher said. “Just to the fact that we all are different, but we serve the same God. That is really cool.”

Belcher and her family moved to Hungary at the end of her sophomore year of high school so her father could serve as a pastor at an international church. Being an international church, his primary purpose was to reach out to the English-speaking population in Hungary. While this meant that most of the congregation isn’t Hungarian, there are multiple ethnic groups represented. Typically, there are around 30 countries represented every Sunday. Many of the people came from missionary, business, and military families.

Though her time in Hungary was brief compared to some, Belcher said the Lord really used it to open her eyes to how God could use anyone in his service, which is something she believes Cedarville emphasizes really well.

“Anyone who wants to serve the Lord, can be used by the Lord,” she said. “He can use teachers, he can use pastors, we even had engineer friends there, military friends. We saw all kinds of people serving the Lord together in their own way. That was really cool to see because I now want to do missions when I graduate and I really believe that was because I saw missions being done in that way.”



Daniel Cable

Daniel Cable, a junior IT management major, said when he was younger, he thought he had missions “figured out.” His parents left for Romania when he was three and are still working there to train the leaders of the native church. During the 16 years Cable was there, he served where he could, including with youth group and the worship team.

“I was kind of living mission, in a way,” Cable said.

Cable said he assumed he could go anywhere because he grew up in missions and did not have to face the traditional struggles with culture and language barriers. As he grew older, however, Cable said he realized that missions would be more difficult if God called him somewhere other than Romania.

“I’d be an outsider,” he said. “So, [I thought] that’s actually kind of scary, maybe I don’t have this figured out. And I didn’t.”

Cable said his parents left steady jobs in the U.S. to become missionaries at an older age, which had been a challenge for them. They had to move their whole life overseas. Through it, though, the family has been able to train native Romanians to teach others about Christ. Cable said he noticed that there are blessings that come with seeing God at work in other places.

“Don’t be afraid if you’re feeling God is calling you to do something radical,” he said.

Aimee Spice

Aimee Spice, a junior linguistics major, said she didn’t feel like she had the same kind of MK experience as most. While her parents served in Jerusalem, Spice was not allowed to tell people her parents were missionaries.

“I didn’t have that mindset,” Spice said. “For me, I was just kind of an American who moved to Israel, living life there.”

Spice said most of her nine years in Jerusalem were just going to school like a normal kid. For her, the times when she most felt like an MK were coming back to the U.S. and going to mission conferences. Spice described how people would assume that returning to the U.S. on furlough was like coming home for her, but it wasn’t.

“Israel, that’s home to me,” she said. “I honestly felt safer in Israel than when I lived in Cleveland.”

Spice said that she enjoyed being an MK and thinks being an MK should be viewed in a positive light.

“Get to know MKs as people rather than as ‘all MKs are like this,’” Spice said. “Get to know them for the unique person they are.”



MISSIONS AT A GLANCE: MKs AND INTERNATIONALS

Aogu Suzuki

Aogu Suzuki, a senior Christian education and youth ministry major, is from Nagano, Japan, and while he is a national and not an MK, he said he definitely benefited from missionaries who came to his country, which has a Christian population of less than one percent.

Despite that fact, Suzuki said not a lot of people support the mission work in Japan. Because of this, short-term mission trips, while good, can be burdensome to the mission field.

“I personally like short-term missions; they’re fun, you get to make a difference for God,” Suzuki said. “You can even go to Japan, but one thing we all need to remember is we’re not just going there to help them. People in the field, they’re doing a lot to enable you to be there. As much as ministry is important, ministry to those who are in the field is very important as well so that they’ll be encouraged and they’ll be empowered by the time you leave.”

Suzuki encouraged students to get involved with missions but to keep the right mindset as they go out.

“When we go to the mission field, one thing we need to remember is, regardless where you are, you are not just a Japanese citizen or an American citizen: You are part of the kingdom of God,” Suzuki said. “More than expanding your own culture, we need to be just focused on expanding God’s kingdom and its cultures.”



Honor

Honor was born in a Middle Eastern country and lived there until she was 16. Both of her parents, who are still overseas, worked in a hospital to treat Muslims with long-term diseases. Honor said working with Muslims was difficult and the missions team realized it would take a long time to get a chance to share the Gospel.

“In long-term missions, it’s a lot of the mundane,” Honor said. “Working through loneliness and culture shock and learning the language and people feeling stupid all the time because you only have the level of a four-year-old in communication skills.”

Honor said one problem she ran into as an MK was loneliness. Her parents worked in a rural area with few Westerners, and there were few extracurricular activities available for girls. However, Honor said she enjoyed the sense of connection she gained from being in a missions-minded community. Her favorite part was “the unity of having the same purpose and worshiping the same God.”

“Even though we come from a lot of different backgrounds and I know people from all over the world, we had the same love for God and love for others and a community that worshiped together,” Honor said.

Jesse Thompson

Jesse Thompson, a junior international studies major, spent 14 years with his family in Brazil. Both of his parents were trained in the medical field. During their time in Brazil, they have worked with a missions hospital, drug rehab ministry, counseling and with the local church. Thompson said that his time as an MK gave him an enjoyment of different cultures and influenced the career he feels God is leading him toward.

Thompson also shared that life as an MK can be difficult. The constant back-and-forth travel of missionaries can be hard because MKs have to leave friends. Thompson said that while there are great benefits to learning another language and culture, parents thinking of becoming missionaries should recognize that their children have feelings and emotions.

“Even though they aren’t in charge of the household, you should always make sure they are handling it well and always having stuff to do,” he said.

Thompson said that MKs are not the only type of student on campus who have had experiences overseas and with travel. He said many experience growing up in another culture makes a large impact on someone’s life.

“Don’t feel like it’s just an isolated group,” Thompson said. “It’s amazing how many people actually did live overseas.”



Corinna

Corinna and her family have been serving overseas since she was 9 years old. Her parents always had a desire to serve God as missionaries. However, it wasn’t until the occurrence of 9/11 that they felt God really push them to go.

“As soon as 9/11 happened, my family started raising support and they started getting really serious about going overseas,” Corinna said. “Before that, my parents would always talk about it, but then I never thought it would actually happen until that point.”

Corinna went on to say that living and serving overseas has really shaped her perspective on different issues facing our world today, especially topics like immigration.

“It’s definitely made me more sensitive to people talking about immigration policies,” she said. “Like calling people aliens, that’s just very rude. It can just be very sensitive to a lot of people, especially if they have lived here their whole life and they feel like they are American and you are suddenly you’re wanting to kick them out. It just made me more sensitive in the way we say things, even if they are beneficial to the whole entirety of the U.S.”

Rebekah Erway is a junior journalism major and campus news editor for Cedars. She is a diehard Disney, VeggieTales, and Lord of the Rings fan and enjoys speaking in a British accent.

Emily Day is a senior journalism major and arts and entertainment editor for Cedars. She is currently obsessed with the music from the new Broadway show Amélie and may be listening to it on a constant loop.

GO Make Disciples

Learn how Global Outreach got started, how they are on mission today

by Alexandria Hentschel
and Paolo Carrion

When Dr. Don Callan started his short-term missions program at Cedarville University 46 years ago, then called Missions Involvement Service (MIS), he was greeted with mixed responses.

“I’ve had a couple pastors buy me lunch to chew me out,” Callan said.

These pastors thought that the ministry was “stealing” money from full-time missionaries. What Callan knew, however, was that students who saw the mission field for themselves tended to come back with a new passion for missions.

“The best thing I did at Cedarville was to become involved, and to get people involved and thinking about missions,” Callan said.

When Callan earned his Ph.D. in 1968, he decided that the timing to start his own short-term missions organization was perfect.

“My dream was to start an organization so we could channel people into missions,” Callan said.

Dr. Harold Green started working at Cedarville around the same time. Callan went to Green with the idea of creating a summer mission trip ministry on campus.

“We were of similar mind,” Callan said.

The two approached Dr. James T. Jeremiah, Cedarville’s president at the time, with the idea. Jeremiah liked the idea but was not sure he wanted it to be an official part of the school’s program. Callan and Green asked permission to start the program anyway, separate from the school. When Jeremiah saw the evidence that their program was working, and how quickly it was growing, he decided to integrate it as part of the school. Through this, the Missions Involvement Services was born.

MIS didn’t hire its first full-time director until 1992. When Callan and Green met Brian Nester while on a missions trip



Photo by Naomi Harward

Brian Nester has served as the director of Global Outreach for 23 years.

in Europe, Green told Callan, “I think we found our man.” After some convincing, Nester was hired as the new MIS director in 1994.

Missions at Cedarville has come a long way in the past half-century under the leadership of men like Callan.

Originally, there were two separate offices for missions at Cedarville: Missions Involvement Services, which orchestrated overseas missions, and Community Ministries, which orchestrated community outreach and ministry in the local church. It was the vision of Vice President for Student Life and Christian Ministries Jon Wood, as well

as President Dr. Thomas White, that brought local ministry and global ministry together in one new, separate office in 2014. The result is what we now call Global Outreach.

Global Outreach, often abbreviated as an acronym that is also a directive — GO — fosters ministry all over the map. They coordinate missions in the local church, regionally, and across the globe, focusing on getting students out to serve wherever they are called.

At the local level, Global Outreach is involved in community ministries such as urban, prison, tutoring, special needs and crisis pregnancy counseling. At the glob-

al level, Global Outreach is sending out 23 teams this summer to serve on several continents doing various activities such as vacation Bible school, medical missions, sports, teaching English, refugee ministry and engineering. They also send teams out year-round.

Nester has been the director of Global Outreach at Cedarville for 23 years. While he has seen the name of the office and its structure change, he said that its central goal has remained the same.

“The heartbeat of Cedarville has always been the local church, evangelism and outreach — it’s just taken different forms over the years,” Nester said.

The local missions has evolved to include many different outreach organizations around the community. Students are able to suggest ministries online using a form. The easy application process has become a way for the ministries to use student talents.

Nester said he believes the Global Outreach office serves several purposes. It not only spreads the Gospel but also gives college students an early foundation for future ministry by helping them become involved.

“Most people who are in ministry today, such as myself, got involved at a young age or in college — it really whetted our appetite and made us feel comfortable and called,” Nester said.

Callan was also first introduced to missions when he was in college. His coach took him to a church and asked him to share his testimony.

“He didn’t care what I said; he just wanted me involved,” Callan said. “He had a vision of reaching out to people, using people who weren’t trained.”

This vision of getting college students involved in ministry continues to shape Global Outreach today. A recent trip reached out to Muslims in Dearborn, Michigan, which has the largest Arab-American population in the U.S. according to Census.gov. Two students who went on the trip said they believe their experience was par-

MISSIONS AT A GLANCE: GLOBAL OUTREACH

ticularly impactful in sparking a passion for missions.

“I think it was more about exposure to the culture, and the different ways we can love the Muslims around us,” Elissa Uithol, a freshman linguistics major, said.

A team of 12 visited several ministries in the area and helped with an English as a second language class.

“I have a heart for Muslim missions,” said Carol Raquet, a freshman electrical engineering major who went on the trip. “I really want to see Muslims, especially women, come to Christ.”

Raquet has also served on CU Outreach trips in which GO sends students to nearby universities to talk with students. “It’s grown me a lot in sharing and articulating my faith,” she said.

Going forward, Nester said he sees the Global Outreach office as changing along with missions in the 21st century. Missions is becoming more non-traditional as missionaries often also have a career in a secular field. Nester said he believes that a nurse, an actor or a doctor can be just as effective at bringing the gospel as a career missionary. The Global Outreach office is focused on ensuring that students can use their specific gifting

“It really is our dream that every student, regardless of their major, can be involved in ministry,” said Nester. “All of us are here to minister to people using our stories and our skills to reach people with the gospel.”



Photos by Naomi Harward

The Global Outreach office is located in the back of the DMC within the Student Life and Christian Ministries Division.

Another change that the Global Outreach office has seen is the greater cooperation with those already living in the country in order to ensure that the best people are sent and no harm is caused in the country. Nester sees the Global Outreach office continuing to send students all over the globe with cooperation and mindfulness in order

to do the most good.

“Christ’s story is what we’re here to tell,” Nester said. “Because of students who are willing to go, people are coming to Christ.”

Alexandria Hentschel is a freshman International Studies major and an off-campus

news writer for Cedars. She enjoys old books, strong coffee, and honest debate

Paolo Carrion is a freshman journalism major and campus news writer for Cedars. He enjoys drinking hot chocolate, reading comic books and making animal crackers watch as he devours their family.

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Mission v. Ministry

Cedars explores the debate discussing the difference between missions and ministry

by Callahan Jones

But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
— Matthew 28:16-20, NASV

It was this instruction from Jesus, "The Great Commission," that sent Christianity out across the globe and it is the command that drives mission efforts today

Over the last several decades, there has been a shift in the church's overall approach to missions. Partially kick-started with the

coining of the term "10/40 Window" by Christian missionary strategist Luis Bush in 1990, churches, mission boards and missionaries throughout the United States started to think about what "missions" really meant.

Over time, many began to develop a very specific view of what missions is, sparking the debate that is now known as "Missions v. Ministry."

The concept of the 10/40 Window is important in the debate, according to Daniel Sterkenburg, associate professor of international business at Cedarville University. Sterkenburg was raised in a missionary family. He is also the university's resident expert on the intersection and synergy of international business and mission work.

"In understanding where everybody is coming from, one needs to understand the 10/40 Window because the shifts towards what we're seeing today are happening largely because of it," said Sterkenburg.

The 10/40 Window is the section of the globe located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator. Ignoring America, it is the area of the globe that experiences the most poverty and crime and also has the least access to Christian resources and the Gospel as a whole. The area contains the poorest countries in the world and is primarily Muslim, Hindu, atheist and practitioners of various tribal religions. It also boasts almost two-thirds of the world's population, mainly due to the window containing both China and India.

Since the conception of the 10/40 Window, many missionaries and mission boards have transferred almost all of their attention to the areas contained within it. This includes the Independent Baptist Mission board and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The debate seeks to find where the line lies between pure mission work and what could be considered simply ministry. One popular view is that ministry cannot be considered missions unless it is specifically

targeted at spreading the Gospel to people groups that do not have it at all. Mission agencies that are mainly focused on the 10/40 Window consistently believe true missions are to unreached groups, IBM and Wycliffe included

"It's not a question of location, it's the spiritual condition of the group and the context of the area that you're targeting that determines whether or not it's really a mission operations," said Dr. Don Grigorenko, professor of missions and intercultural studies at Cedarville, former long-term missionary to Nepal and proponent of this view.

Grigorenko explained this viewpoint holds that anybody who is not spending their time in a locale that is largely of a non-Christian religious make up or does not have large Christian infrastructure in place is not a missionary. They would instead simply be in ministry to the church that already exists there.

This position also holds that West-

More than



live in the 10/40 Window.
90% of them are Unreached,

including:



865 million Muslims • 550 million Hindus • 150 million Chinese • 275 million Buddhists • 140 million tribal or spiritualist beliefs • 17 million Jews

ern missionaries are borderline wasting their time in such places as Ukraine and Peru, as these areas already have localized Christians and churches who are much better suited to ministering to their fellow locals than Western missionaries could ever be.

“What you’ve got to ask is, ‘Is there a growing and multiplying church with the country’s own people reaching their own?’” said Grigorenko. “If not, then you have a mission field. If that’s already there, it’s simply not a mission field. You’re serving the ministry that’s already there.”

On the other side of the debate are those who don’t really think the debate exists at all. This belief would say that there is a very loose line or no line at all between mission work and ministry. They are one and the same.

“While there is something to be said for the 10/40 Window and the challenges and needs it presents, Christians abroad need to remember that the rest of the world has needs as well,” said Sterkenburg, whose parents were missionaries in Brazil for much of their adult lives.

He holds that the overarching theme of the Great Commission should be the only test for what is defined as missions and that it should be defined in a much larger way than the other side would suggest. Regardless of how churched an area is, or how established Christianity is there, there’s still people there that need Christ and if a person is there with the intent to offer the Gospel to them, it could be missions.

Some also hold great concern for the countries outside of the 10/40 Window, especially those that are in the same situation as the countries in the window but happen to be in the wrong physical location.

Both sides, however, seem to share similar philosophies toward a somewhat controversial topic that falls into the debate almost by accident: short-term missions trips.

Both sides would tell you that almost no short-term missions trips can really be treated at missions, but for different reasons.

“Short-term missions don’t go to unreached places, they go to reached places, almost every time,” said Grigorenko.

“It’s the spiritual condition of the group and the context of the area ... that determines whether or not it’s really a missions operation.”

Don Grigorenko

professor of missions and intercultural studies

“They’re sometimes nice ministry opportunities or cultural experiences, but I think I would struggle to call the majority of them actual missions.”

Sterkenburg said similar things about short-term mission trips but with some caveats and different motivations.

“I think there’s a lot of dangers with short-term missions trips. We don’t want to send a bunch of kids out to a field where they’re going to inconvenience a mission-

ary,” said Sterkenburg. “And I think that’s what can happen a lot of the time, because churches aren’t careful.”

Sterkenburg also expressed doubts about the costs of mission trips.

“Instead of sending 10 kids out somewhere at the price of \$2,000 each to build five walls, why not give the missionaries \$20,000 that they can spend on professional builders in the area who could put up more walls in a faster time?” Sterkenburg

said.

Most of the controversy from both sides surrounding short-term trips generally involves both the preparedness of the missionaries to handle a group and also the group’s motivation and preparedness. However, much of this debate simply centers around the church’s research into the trip and their motivations behind it.

Whether there truly is a definition for missions is another thing that is yet to be seen. Perhaps one day, people will come to an agreement on it. Or maybe not.

“In order for there to be a solid answer, I think you need to be able to point to the Bible for the definition and it really isn’t there,” Sterkenburg said.

Callahan Jones is a sophomore journalism major and a writer and the Web Content Editor for Cedars. In his free time, he enjoys drinking coffee, collecting headphones and playing Magic: The Gathering competitively.


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Welcoming the Stranger

Faith-based organizations play a crucial role in ressetling and caring for refugees in Dayton

by Keegan D'Alfonso and Naomi Harward

Many are aware of the global refugee crisis that faces the world today and the rhetoric of both sides about whether we should take them into our country and, if so, how many. But what is often left out of the discussion for Christians is, once they are here, how they can be ministered to.

The refugee problem is not just a national issue but a church and local issue as well. The Dayton area alone is home to hundreds of African refugees who are in great need.

Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley (CSSMV) is often the first point of contact for these refugees because it is the only resettlement agency in Dayton.

"We resettled just over 380 refugees last year alone," said Mike Lehner, director of marketing and development for CSSMV. "Typically our numbers are more like 200-250, and this year we expect the numbers to be just under 200 because of the rollback in admissions."

Of these refugees, Lehner said over 70 percent of them come from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with the next largest number of refugees coming from Eritrea. Very few refugees in Dayton actually come from countries on President Donald Trump's so-called "banned list" of Muslim countries. Lehner said this is because refugees are placed in areas based on the region's ability to cater to their needs, especially in regards to language services.

"It's all cyclical; it all depends on where the crisis is right now," Lehner said. "Then they do a survey about the capacity of your city's ability to serve certain populations. For instance, when they surveyed Dayton for Syrian refugees they found there wasn't the support structure for Syrians here in Dayton."

When refugees arrive in Dayton, the CSSMV houses them and provides support for 90 days. Lehner said that all of the hous-

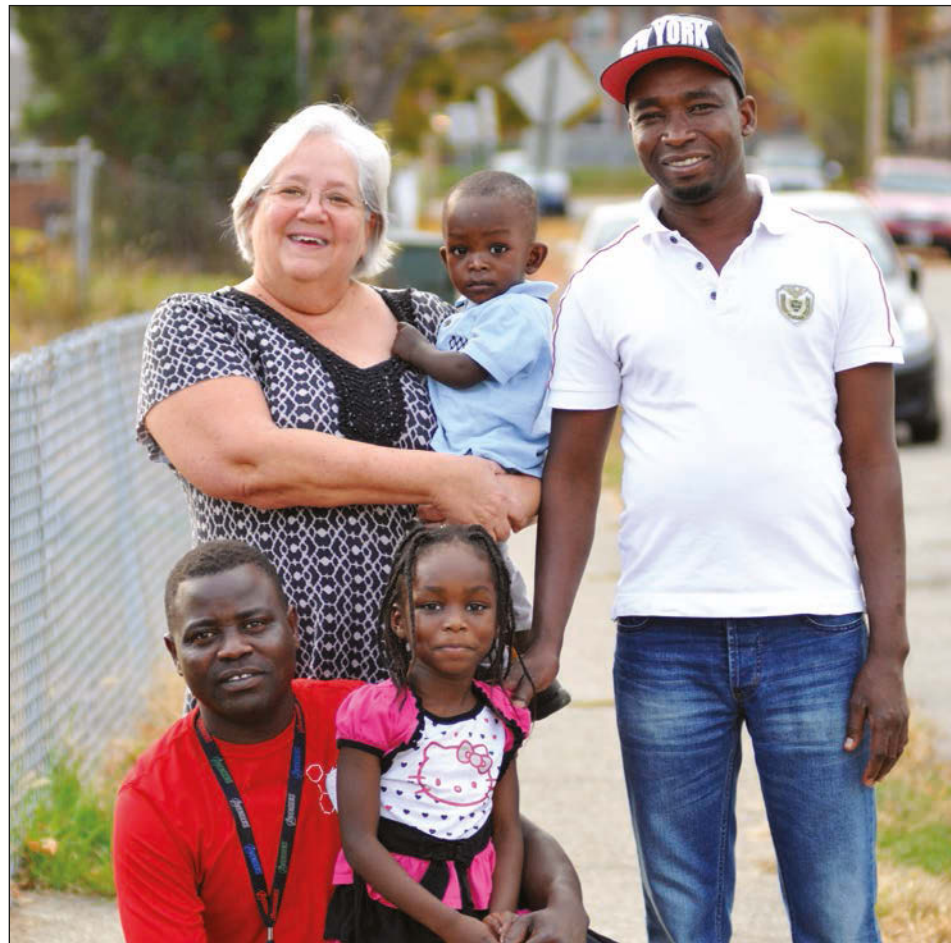


Photo provided by Pamela Laughlin
Pamela Laughlin (top left) with a refugee family she serves in the Dayton area.

ing is arranged with private landlords.

"That's probably the trickiest piece of this," Lehner said. "We typically don't have much time when we are notified a family is arriving. Sometimes it is as little as three days and we need to find a landlord willing to rent to somebody who has no identity and no credit history."

CSSMV then sets up the house and begins enculturation services for the incoming refugee. Many of these refugees are unfamiliar with what Americans would consider common household appliances, so even cooking on a stove may need to be taught. Additionally, Lehner said refugees commonly lack English language skills and formal education, skills that are often needed

for employment.

"Obviously, refugees need more services beyond 90 days," Lehner said. "That's probably where the biggest need comes in, that need for more long-term services wrapped around refugees in the enculturation process."

That is when organizations like No Longer Strangers, a refugee ministry of Christ The King Anglican Church in Dayton that operates in cooperation with CSSMV, come in.

Started roughly five years ago by Pamela Laughlin, No Longer Strangers continues the work to provide limited enculturation services and support to refugees in the area. Many of which come from Eritrea, DRC and some from Sudan or South Sudan, accord-

ing to Laughlin.

Armed with the desire to help and little else, Laughlin (called "The Mom of Dayton" by those she helps) started small by teaching a sewing class. Laughlin had learned that Honeywell First Responder Products, a company in Dayton that makes fire protective gear, would hire non-English speakers who could pass their sewing test.

"So I thought, hmm, I can teach more people how to sew," Laughlin said. "I had no idea what I was getting into; wasn't quite sure how to start; so I just started."

Laughlin later learned from one of her former students the exact skills the refugees needed to pass Honeywell's test to get hired and began tailoring her class to the test.

"This has become a first job for many of the newly arriving refugees," Laughlin said.

Other local churches have since followed suit with their own sewing programs. Laughlin said she hopes those programs become successful so she can begin to focus more on the children.

"The older folks are really going to struggle," Laughlin said. "The kids have more of a chance, particularly the younger they are the more likely."

This is due to the lack of education and the overwhelming nature of learning a new culture. Laughlin said that many of them have never paid a bill and are unfamiliar with how to use household appliances. Additionally, they may face psychological needs.

"A lot of them deal with a lot of emotional and mental health issues because of the trauma they've been through," Laughlin said. "Sometimes that doesn't show up until a year or so later."

Laughlin also said that culture shock often sets in around the same time that their case management ends with CSSMV.

Another pressing need for refugees is English language training, a service that is currently not offered by No Longer Strangers, although Laughlin said she hopes to have someone to teach English as soon as this summer. However, Laughlin said there are many other places where refugees can

REFUGEE STATISTICS

Between **October 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017**, Ohio welcomed a total of **1,985** refugees into the state - Refugee Processing Center (wrapsnet.org)

Pew Research Stats:

The **U.S.** admitted **84,995** refugees in the fiscal year ending in September 2016

The top countries admitted into the US in fiscal 2016 were:



Democratic Republic of Congo
16,370



Syria
12,587



Burma
12,347



Iraq
9,880



Somalia
9,020

Ohio ranked fifth in the list of states that welcomed the most resettled refugees in 2016, resettling a total of **4,194** refugees

Graphic by Amy Sririntrachai

receive English classes.

Currently, Laughlin has been putting most of her focus on afterschool programs for the kids. A group of students from Cedarville lead a ministry called King's Kids. They come every Sunday night to play with the kids and provide Bible lessons. Laughlin said she has also had students from other nearby universities offer to help

"It's really difficult with students because they live a different life," Laughlin said. "Cedarville kids, I know they have huge demands, so I'm thrilled to have them every Sunday night."

Senior Cedarville student Erika Belmont, who has been a part of the ministry during all three years she has been at Cedarville, said she can see the impact their presence has on the children they are working with. She said many of the children come from families where the parents are not very involved in the children's lives, and that having an older student pouring into them and building their trust makes a huge difference

"It kind of paves the way for them to ask more questions," she said. "A lot of them

don't know Jesus yet."

Sometimes simple misunderstandings and misconceptions add to the problems refugees face. Many people have an impression that screening for refugees is inadequate and can serve as a way of entrance for radical Muslims that wish the U.S. harm.

"There's just a lot of misinformation out there about that," Lehner said. "Refugees already go through by far the most extreme vetting process of any immigrant population. The majority of our refugees are in a refugee camp for 10 years before they are entered into a resettlement program. It's a very difficult process

Of the 21.3 million people classified as refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR), Lehner said that less than half of one percent of them will ever be resettled. That's not even considering the almost 41 million internally displaced persons who are effectively refugees in their own country.

To enter the U.S., most refugees first have to be screened and given refugee status by the UNHCR. Then they are screened

by the United States, a process that can take 18-24 months.

As for the fear of religious extremist, it would be exceedingly difficult to enter the country via the refugee process because of the screening. According to a Pew Research Center report earlier this year, the U.S. historically has allowed in more Christian refugees than Muslims. Although this was not true last year, there was only a two percent margin of difference between Muslim and Christian admittance according to the report.

In Dayton, the majority of refugees come from the DRC, which has a primarily Catholic and Protestant population according to the CIA World Factbook. Laughlin also confirmed that the majority of refugees she serves are Christian.

Despite the cultural challenges and misconceptions, refugees are not helpless and have many skills despite a lack of education.

"They do have skills," Laughlin said. "They all bring something with them. There is overwhelming need in the refugee community when I come here, but I also have to step back

and say "these people are survivors. They have survived more than I can even imagine and they're going to survive this too."

Sometimes, though, the biggest need for refugees is the need for community.

"If you have a refugee in your neighborhood stop by, say hi and just become a neighbor to that person and let them know, because more than anything they want friendship," Laughlin said. "If someone befriends a refugee family or single refugee, and sticks with that person, that person is going to be much further ahead than someone who has had no one. If nothing else, be their friend."

Keegan D'Alfonso is a sophomore journalism major and the off-campus news editor for Cedars. He was a sergeant in the Marines and enjoys learning about and experiencing other cultures.

Naomi Haward is a senior journalism major and the photography editor for Cedars. She is an avid photographer and loves riding horses and writing flash fiction.

A Life on Mission

Missionaries discuss what it means to have a career in missions

by Keegan D'Alfonso and Josh Burris

A career in missions looks different for everyone. Everyone also has a unique road to the field. However, there are a few things missionaries must accomplish before going overseas into the field. They have to go through training, raise support and find a missions agency to work through.

Training can come in different forms. Some will go to college for education and missions training. However, going to college is not required to be a full-time missionary. Senior Biblical studies major Andrew Yount said missionaries are sent out by their home church similar to what was done in the New Testament.

“They are your sponsor in the sense that they endorse you to become a missionary,” Yount said. “Training is developed in home church. They know if you would do a good job spreading the gospel and planting a church.”

According to Yount, the process is thorough and takes a couple years to be ready. During this time, missionaries prepare for the experience overseas, culture shock, plugging into a ministry and other adjustments.

Missionaries also need to raise financial support for income and resources to help others. Also during this time, there is a lot of prayer and traveling to churches. Yount said missionaries travel around and tell different churches why they feel called and ask for their support. They also meet with individuals for support.

When raising support, Yount said missionaries aren't trying to meet a one-time goal. Instead, they try to raise a monthly commitment level. For example, if they need \$120,000 for a year, they would try to raise \$10,000 each month.

“You do that to create a continual relationship with your givers because they are just as important as you are,” Yount said. “You want to be engaged with people giving and let them know the difference they are making because you need the money and they are making an impact.”

Along with raising financial support, they need to find a location and an agency. Location varies with each situation, Yount said. Some people pray for God to lead them somewhere. Others already know where they want to go. Some people also want to only reach unreached people groups.

As for finding an agency, Yount said it is a unique and important process.

“It's not like finding an employer, but you yourself are applying to be a part of that mission agency,” Yount said. “But as much as you are applying to them, they are applying for you in a sense. You are interviewing them in a sense

about how they treat their missionaries as they interview you for if you would be a good fit.

Adjusting to a new culture is also a challenge. Like anything else, Yount said missionaries learn and adjust after spending time in a new setting.

“It depends on the person and the language,” Yount said. “Some people are more gifted at picking up languages than others. Some languages are just more difficult based on how they are even spoken.”

Yount said usually missionaries can hold conversations after seven to nine months and that it can take four or five years to become fluent.

“From a missionary standpoint, you can communicate like a pastor can preach a sermon without notes.”

A second career

While some places are open to missionaries, there are other parts of the world that have either banned evangelism or have radical members of the local religion who actively seek to harm or kill those who evangelize or choose to convert. One local missionary who routinely serves in India would only identify himself as Butch because the use of his name could cause radical Hindu nationalists to kill his ministry partners in India.

Butch started in missions later in life when he decided to go on a short-term mission trip in India in 2006. A trip, he said he was hesitant to go on because he felt short-term missions were a waste of money. However, he was so impacted by the relationships he formed while on the trip that he decided to continue with more regular missions in India.

“I saw the value of short-term missions because had I never gone on that mission trip I wouldn't be involved in this ministry,” Butch said.

Partnered with his new Indian friends, Butch began spreading the gospel to other Indians. What began initially as a church planting effort soon grew into a much larger and holistic mission when his partners in India began working to help the widows, orphans and those with AIDS.

“Taking care of orphans and widows is pure religion and undefiled according to James Chapter 1,” Butch said. “So how could we argue with that?”

The mission of Butch and his partners in India has grown to help hundreds of orphans and widows while also discipling new Christians and spreading the gospel to other villages. All this through the funding of one local church.

The mission is truly a partnership, as Butch works closely with his Indian partners to make sure the gospel is spread in the best way to reach those in India and not en-

danger his ministry partners. While Butch does frequently visit India, he said can do more for India in the United States by raising financial support while his Indian partners evangelize and serve the impoverished in India.

“We go by the leadings and the promptings of our hosts who are indigenous and know the country very well and are wise,” Butch said. “They're the labor of the church, we're the bank of the church. [God's] going to use us to provide resources to send them, so it's a partnership with the Lord.”

The mission field, however, has not been without difficulties. Numerous health issues faced by both Butch and his partners slowed the start of their ministry and they face a constant threat of persecution.

“The thing that gets you kicked out of India, and the thing that gets you killed in India is converting Hindus,” Butch said.

There are also natural dangers as well. Disease and poisonous animals and insects pose a real danger when living in less-developed regions of the world.

Always a missionary

David Brooks, who is part of a longstanding international organization that typically serves in what his organization calls “hard places” also spoke of the danger that missionaries face.

Brooks has spent over 20 years in full-time missions, with 16 years spent in Afghanistan. He has been threatened, had friends killed by the Taliban and had to take care not to accidentally step on old landmines as he did his work. Now he serves as a security advisor for his organization.

Unlike Butch, Brooks knew he wanted to get involved in missions at an early age. Both his dad and grandfather had served as missionaries.

“It was in the family as it were,” Brooks said, “I was fairly young and I really felt the Lord put it on my heart. Not just missions; I was particularly interested in aid work and development work.”

Rather than planting churches Brooks directed a program that provided basic eyecare to the Afghan people as well as other large projects to provide self-sufficiency.

“So many people think of a missionary as someone in a white shirt and dark suit with a great big bible standing out preaching to people far away,” Brooks said. “It's so much bigger than that. Living out your vocation as a follower of Jesus in whatever he gives you to do.”

Surprisingly, Brooks said the biggest challenge to mission work was not the danger or hardships faced in living in another country.

MISSION AS CAREERS

Out of 7.3 billion people in the world, 2.3 billion are Christian (748 million are evangelical Christian).

- (About Missions)

Of those 7.3 billion, 3 billion live among unreached people groups, and 1.6 billion are completely unevangelized to.

- (About Missions)

400,000 total missionaries in the world (Catholic, Protestant, etc).

- (The Traveling Team)

309,315 in the reached world (77.3%), 77,610 in the unevangelized (19.4%), 13,315 in the unreached (3.3%).

- (The Traveling Team)

Reached people group - greater than 2% or majority Christian population.

- (The Traveling Team)

Unevangelized people group - greater than 2%, but still a lot unsaved.

- (The Traveling Team)

Unreached people group - less than 2% evangelical Christian.

- (The Traveling Team)

Number of countries that don't allow missionaries - 26.

- (Statistic Brain)

60% of unreached people groups live in countries closed to missionaries from North America.

- (The Traveling Team)

\$45 billion is given to missions a year.

- (The Traveling Team)

Top 10 Countries that receive most Christian Missionaries in order: United States (32,400), Brazil (20,000), Russia (20,000), Congo (15,000), South Africa (12,000), France (10,000), United Kingdom (10,000), Argentina (10,000), Chili (8,500), India (8,000).

- (The Richest)

Together, those 10 countries receive 36% of the world's 400,000 missionaries.

- (The Richest)

Graphic by Amy Sririntrachai

“One of the main things that causes people to go home is not the difficult of being overseas, it's the conflict with other Christian workers,” Brooks said.

Another challenge faced by missionaries abroad are everyday tasks to get through the day, Brooks said.

“If you want a shower, well you build a fire, and you heat up the water, and then you've got to heat up the room if it's winter. You just spend an hour getting ready to take a bath,” He said. “It's stuff like that that made it hard to get any work done.”

According to Brooks, missionaries can also struggle

with issues of perception.

“Sometimes people put you on a pedestal, which is really weird if you are on the receiving end of it,” he said.

Alternatively, Brooks said that often people think they are strange for working in such dangerous places and he often feels the need to defend why he does what he does.

Despite the challenges, Brooks said he loves working in missions as a career.

“It is actually a career, and you can develop in it and become more of a professional,” Brooks said. “You're not going to become wealthy doing it, but it is going to be hugely

satisfying. It's way more fun than anything else.”

Keegan D'Alfonso is a sophomore journalism major and the off-campus news editor for Cedars. He was a sergeant in the Marines and enjoys learning about and experiencing other cultures.

Josh Burris is a senior journalism major and the sports editor for Cedars. He is interested in sports broadcasting and reporting. He enjoys watching sports, lifting, and listening to rock and rap music.

Rachel Rowland: Intentional Mission

by Rebekah Erway

Rachel Rowland, senior intercultural studies missiology major and leader of the New York City Evangelism spring break trip, recently appeared as Marian in Cedarville's Winter production of "The Music Man." Rowland said she tries to engage with the art and theatre communities in general. She has also been in women's choir for four years and has volunteered to help with recitals and acting scenes for directing classes.

"The arts are really important to me," Rowland said. "I try to be involved in whatever ways I can."

Rowland said throughout high school, when she was questioning her identity, art was a tool for her to understand God on a deeper level and understand the human experience.

"Art is not something that decorates our life but it's something that enhances it and makes it so much more beautiful and expressive," Rowland said.

Rowland doesn't simply live for the arts. Her life displays her desire to be intentional with her gifts.

"She is intentional in her relationships, intentional about her purpose, intentional about her walk with God," said Beth Cram Porter, associate professor of vocal music. "She lives consciously."

Rowland said her desire to live purposefully led her to switch her major from vocal studies to intercultural studies during her second semester of sophomore year. When Rowland entered college in the fall 2013, she planned to go into performance. Then, during the missions conference her sophomore year, Rowland decided to be more intentional about life after graduation.

"I decided I would really love to reach people through the arts in a missional context," Rowland said. "I don't necessarily know if that's overseas, but I do know that I want to use the arts to reach people for the gospel and for furthering of the kingdom."

Rowland's internal drive led her to start the NYC Evangelism spring break missions



Photo by Campbell Bortel

Rachel Rowland's New York trip has allowed about 35 students to experience evangelism in a way they never had the opportunity to before.

trip between her freshman and sophomore year. That summer, Rowland prayed about God using the resources she had to serve him because she didn't know how to serve.

"I didn't know where I could be used at Cedarville," she said. "I was struggling."

Rowland said that as she prayed, she thought about what she was passionate about, which included NYC. Growing up near the city, Rowland said she knew there were a lot of opportunities to serve there. She began thinking through the logistics it would require to take a missions team to the city.

"I just wanted to be able to use my knowledge of the city and the fact that I lived somewhat close to NY to be able to expose people to urban ministry and homeless ministry," Rowland said.

Rowland created a mock plan of a missions trip and presented it to the Global Outreach office that fall. To her surprise, they asked her to lead it. Rowland said she did not feel prepared as a sophomore, but

she was willing to lead the trip.

"It was kind of one of those things where you don't really feel prepared to do it, but God equips you to do it as you proceed," Rowland said.

Rowland has led a team of five to seven people to NYC for the past three spring breaks. This year, the team went to neighborhoods in different boroughs of NYC: Brooklyn, Chinatown and Midtown. Because each borough had a different environment, each place the team went tackled a different side of ministry. In some places, the team ministered to those who were homeless. Another was to those in a shelter working toward restoration. The third was to those who lived in extreme poverty but were not yet homeless.

"You minister differently according to where you are," Rowland said.

Rowland said finding several organizations to minister alongside can be a challenge. Since mission trips have a lot of moving parts, communication was an important

part of planning. Rowland had to find organizations that were well-organized and could respond to her emails in a timely manner. She said she might contact five different organizations requesting opportunities to serve and not hear back from any.

Another challenge to planning the mission trip was figuring out transportation, Rowland said, which is especially difficult in an urban environment where "it takes forever to get anywhere always."

Rowland said she realizes short-term missions trips do not make a large impact during the week they are there. She said she hopes each year that someone on the trip sees urban or homeless ministry in a way they did not before and decides to do those ministries in their area for years to come.

"Ultimately, short-term trips are a segue into a much larger picture of what ministry is; working day in and day out and working, building into the same peoples' lives again and again and again," Rowland said. "Showing a commitment to the people you are serving, whose hearts and souls you are pouring into on a daily basis."

Students who have gone on these trips shared that they appreciated the effort Rowland put into leading the trips.

"On the trip, she was gung-ho about anything, even the really small," said Arielle Feustel, a sophomore biblical studies major.

"No matter how tired we were, we had a devotional time, shared testimonies, highs and lows," Feustel said.

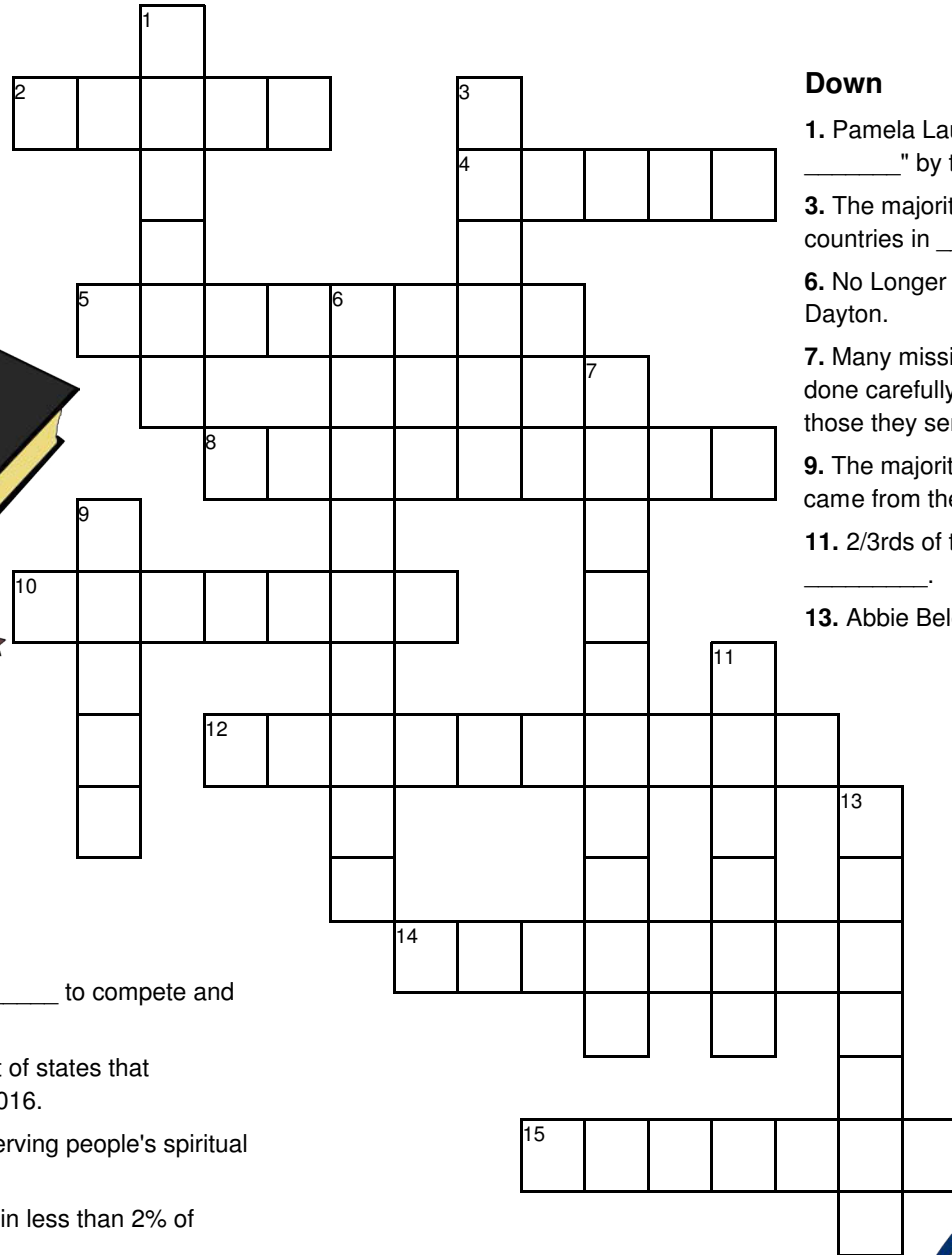
While these were times of fellowship, they were also times where Rowland prioritized the spiritual health of the team. Feustel said she appreciated how Rowland kept the team's eyes fixed on God throughout the whole week, and she recommends that others get to know her.

"She knows how to balance being so fun and so carefree and so crazy energetic with also being so serious and wise and pursuing the Lord in what she does," Feustel said.

Rebekah Erway is a junior journalism major and campus news editor for Cedars. She is a diehard Disney, VeggieTales, and Lord of the Rings fan and enjoys speaking in a British accent.

CROSSWORD

Missions Crossword



Across

2. The basketball team went to _____ to compete and minister last year.
4. Ohio ranked _____ in the list of states that welcomed the most refugees in 2016.
5. _____ missions focus on serving people's spiritual and physical needs
8. _____ people groups contain less than 2% of evangelical Christians.
10. Rachel _____ was the creator of the NYC missions trip.
12. _____ countries ban missionaries from entering their country.
14. _____, MI has the largest Arab-American population in the U.S.
15. David Brooks led a/an _____ program in Afghanistan.

Down

1. Pamela Laughlin is also known as "The Mom of _____" by those she serves.
3. The majority of refugees resettled in Ohio come from countries in _____.
6. No Longer _____ serves resettled refugees in Dayton.
7. Many missionaries feel like _____ missions should be done carefully to meet the needs of missionaries and those they serve.
9. The majority of refugees that entered the U.S. last year came from the Dominican Republic of _____.
11. 2/3rds of the worlds population lives in the 10/40 _____.
13. Abbie Belcher spent two years serving in _____.



Note from an Editor: Memories of Me



by Emily Day

Until now, I have spent the majority of my life in a classroom. Shocking I know.

The truth is, for the average twenty-something, most of their memories are tied to some form of educational institution, whether with friends or family members. Some memories are

good, like meeting your best friend or finally mastering all the bones in the body (cause one day you will NEED to know the difference between the radius and the ulna, promise). Other memories are more traumatic, like meeting your mortal enemy or discovering that for the past five months, you have been dissecting a pregnant cat (not that I'm speaking from personal experience, because that would be tragic).

Still others are memories you have come to regret, like experimental hair lengths or changing your final project the night before, forcing yourself to consume more coffee than humanly possible (but hey, I received an A).

It's hard to imagine not spending my days in a classroom. For so long, much of my identity was tied up in being a student, excelling in classes and spending time with my friends. The closer I get to my impending graduation, the more nostalgic I become. I know what you're thinking: "Typical, cliché senior, she's going to get crazy sentimental," and you may be right. However, occasionally, it's nice to take a look back and see how far you've come and how much you've grown. So, buckle in, this may get real sappy.

During my time at Cedarville, God has worked in and through my life in some of the most unique ways. They weren't always pleasant experiences. Yet, through every moment, good and bad, God was clearly shaping me into the person I needed to become so that when I cross the stage on graduation day, I will be assured that I am doing exactly what God has intended for my life.

The biggest blessing I have received while at Cedarville was probably my friend family. This group stuck with me throughout my entire college career (despite the fact they quickly found out I was a workaholic bordering on insanity). We celebrated each others' successes and cried together through the hard times. We've challenged each others' thinking and our perspectives have been altered. I've been eternally blessed by each and every one of them. Each one played a key role in forming the woman that I am today. For that, I am exceedingly grateful.

I can't go back to yesterday because I was a different person then.

Lewis Carroll

Author of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"

Never underestimate the value of a friend that pushes you to be spontaneous. For me, that person is Amy Abraham. Amy, thank you for being the self-appointed event planner. You made sure I took the time to have fun and relax despite the ridiculous amounts of homework and tests. You reminded me to take advantage of every moment and not take each other for granted. You also rant with me about anything and everything while using an overabundance of sass, so for that I thank you.

On the flip side, everyone needs a friend that gives them a bit of stability. For me, that is Grace Littlefield. Grace, thank you for your kind soul and sweet spirit. You are a constant source of encouragement and wise counsel. Whenever any of us had a hard day, you could always be found with a hug and a cup of tea ready for us. You gave our group a sense of sophistication like taking us to tea-rooms and the ballet while also joining in on our highly illogical, witty banter. You inspire me to work harder and to be better, and for that I thank you.

Sarcastic banter is a necessity in the majority of situations. Ali Hunter, you're up. Ali, thank you for putting up with me in pep band for the past three years. I know it wasn't always easy. You made each day 100 times more enjoyable. Whether it was mocking the players or more serious conversation, I always walked away smiling and feeling content. You are wiser and kinder than you are willing to admit. You help me not take myself too seriously and continually reminded me to get enough sleep. I promise I will start putting that into practice.

Because sarcasm cannot merely be a one-woman show, I've added another. Naomi Harward, I'm talking about you. Naomi, thank you for being willing to listen to my endless rants, about anything and everything. This is not an easy task, especially if it is me complaining about coding, social justice/political issues or Cedars, which it is nine times out of 10. I will dearly miss commentating all our classes, especially Simon's classes (which I feel I need to apologize for, Simon you are the best). You are so kind and funny and I

have come to truly cherish your friendship.

Now comes the person whose friendship I'm not even sure I can put into words: the one and only, Amelia Walker. Amelia, we have been friends for 12 years. I don't know about you, but that seems utterly insane to me. You have truly seen me at my absolute best and complete worst. You are a constant source of support and inspiration. You push me to do better and to be better by pointing me towards Christ. I am truly excited to see where God takes us in the coming years even though it may mean being far apart. You have taught me what it means to be a true and loyal friend, and for that I will never be able to repay you.

There are many more people I could add to this list, but for the sake of my sanity (and most likely yours) I'll stop. Each of these women has made a lasting impact on my life, they have helped shape me into the person I am today. Once I am graduated and gone from Cedarville, these women and so many others people like them will be what I remember fondly. They will be the memories of my time here. Not the classes, the events, the stress or even the diploma, while these are all benefits (except maybe the stress) of my college experience, they are not what truly matters.

So, my advice to underclassmen (to further lean into the cliché that is this editor's note): create a friend family. Apart from spiritual decisions, who you choose to surround yourself with for the next four years will determine the success and enjoyment of your college experience. Choose wisely, don't just make friends with those most like you. Find people who challenge you, who push you to be the best version of yourself. Surround yourself with people who won't be afraid to say that you're wrong. This friend family will help ensure that when you are walking across that stage, you spent your time here well and you finished strong.

There are many more things I could share with you about my time at Cedarville. I could talk about how wonderful the professors are or how great worshiping with the entire student body is, but there is simply not enough time or words to fully capture how unique this stage of my life has been.

Remembering back to the terrified, doe-eyed freshman that first stepped foot on campus, it's hard to believe that I'm the same person now. Sitting here writing this, I think back to my favorite childhood heroine, Alice, as she is contemplating her own identity: "I can't go back to yesterday because I was a different person then."

Emily Day es una senior de la especialidad de periodismo y la editora de los artes y el entretenimiento por Cedars. Ella tiene my sentimientos encontrados sobre graduacion.

Just Sayin' ... In Search of Identity



by Adam Pittman

Who are you? What constitutes your sense of self? What gives you purpose and meaning?

I have spent this past academic year thinking on these questions, and even before this year these questions were at the heart of seemingly every facet of my life.

We live, above all else, in a culture founded on tastes that define identity — music, fashion, literature, films, hobbies, food. It is as if we can craft people based on their likes and dislikes. The danger of this identity quest is implicated in the way that identity is sold to us. The function of advertisement, after all, is to sell a product. However, in this case, the consumer's identity, central to an individual, is objectified to meet a business' bottom-line. The question then becomes, how can a person break free from the cyclic nature of consumerism and a culture obsessed with image?

Awareness is the first step to breaking free from the cycle of seeking identity. Celebrity endorsements, for example, market products such as soft drinks, fast food restaurants, clothing, and auto companies, among other things, with the chief message that buying their product will produce some form of happiness, whether through physical satisfaction or an improved social image. Celebrities offer the average person a connection to the idealized American life, and people place trust in celebrities based on the false vulnerability that social media provides. This

allows for a company's advertising attempts to work seamlessly through celebrity image. People want what celebrities have. The failure to obtain A-list status leads to a pursuit of the image of celebrities — the shoes they wear, the music they listen to, the cars they drive. The cult of personality is alive and well in America, and the marketing of the celebrity image is one of the leading causes.

However, the questions of identity reach further than just marketed images for the consumer. Questions of gender identity, both in personality and sexuality, mark most of the discussions around individual identity.

The problem with gender identity, especially the struggle between masculine

and feminine identities, is the relation to power and influence. Under this view, men want to retain the power and influence that they have had in the Western tradition, while women desire to attain the status and influence of men, as shown by the recent women's marches and equality movements. The desire and attempt for equality is a valid movement for women, but the overall struggle between gender identity and power shows the nature of people to desire power over one's self. This desire for power is termed subjectivity, or the ability to decide for one's self, and gender identity is one of the ways in which subjectivity plays out in the modern world.

Who are you? What constitutes your sense of self? What gives you purpose and meaning?

Yet the desire for subjectivity remains

one of the most enduring qualities of humanity. Eve's sin in the garden was her desire for authority over herself, and the allure of power offers a false sense of stability. Ernest Becker, in his book "The Denial of Death," calls this quest for subjectivity "heroic individualism" — that if an individual can truly determine one's own autonomous identity, then that individual could become master of his or her own fate. One might even be able to conquer the mortality of the human condition. Becker argues that the identity-quest of human culture is an attempt to deny death, or deny the possibility that all of this could end. Growing up in the suburbs offers me a distinct view of this phenomenon.

In the suburbs, individuals attempt to deny any sense of mortality through a false sense of comfort and stability. Not only are neighborhoods an attempt at a suburban utopia, the purchases of an individual, and the blatant materialistic excess, create an allusion of distraction and purpose that hides any sense of mortality or lack of power over one's own choices. We cannot stand the randomness of the earth, that both the good and the bad have the same earthly fate. Instead of reconciling this issue, the average person will attempt to create distractions — a boat, a new car, a nice house, a well-kept lawn, their children's activities. All of these things are an attempt to distract the mind from the fact that what comes after death

remains a mystery.

Therefore, the problems of identity — cultural, gender, or just public image — are not merely about choosing the right ones among countless, but about finding something that breaks us free from the pattern of identity-seeking within the world. This is the mystery of the cross and its earthly implications. Jesus' death on the cross is not just about the salvation for our sins, but Jesus' ability to deny his claim to power and any claim to an earthly kingdom provides us an example of what it means to truly sacrifice our claim to identity and power.

We, then, as Christians, should not attempt to create alternate forms of identity that oppose cultural identities, but rather our identities have been taken in under the yoke of Christ so that, as Paul writes in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This is the beauty of the cross on earth, for we could just as easily say, "There is neither American nor Syrian, neither white nor black, neither Republican nor Democrat, no male and female, for we are all in Christ Jesus."

Under Christ, we have submitted every claim to identity to Christ, but this is the earth-shaking transformation of the gospel — the first become last, death becomes life, slavery becomes freedom — and we are no longer justified in claims to power, but willingly withdraw from power in order to serve the poor, the sick, and those who have been pushed into the margins by the earthly desire for power.

Adam Pittman is a senior English major and Just Sayin' Columnist for Cedars. Among other things, he avidly enjoys reading, the outdoors, coffee, and soccer

Tell Adam what you would like him to write about. Send your questions, comments or concerns to adampittman@cedarville.edu



Freshman Yellow Jacket Logan Eby takes a cut against Walsh. The Jackets are 15-23 overall and 6-10 in the G-MAC.

Beautiful Day For Baseball

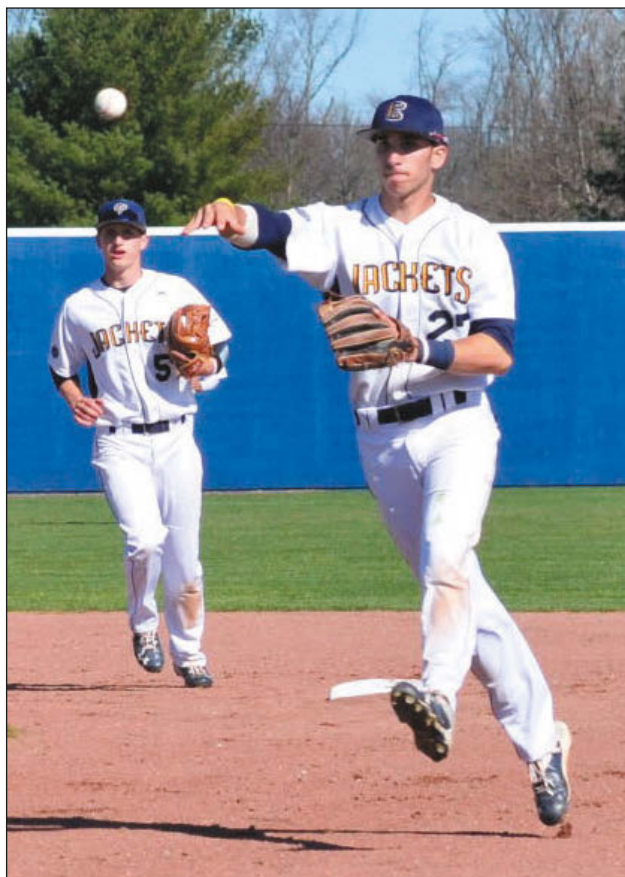
Photos by Naomi Harward



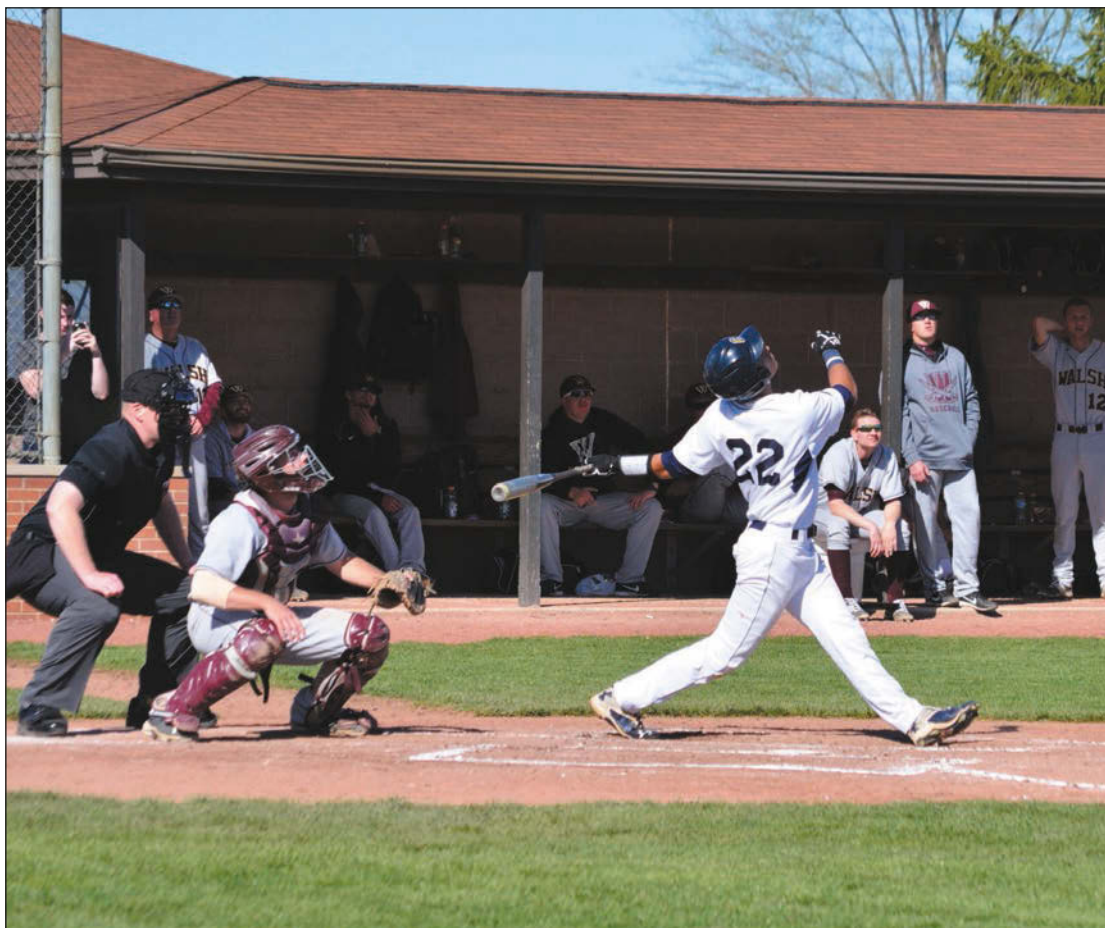
Junior Marcus Bobb of Walsh University dives for the ball during CU's April 8 home game against the Walsh Cavaliers. Cedarville split a double-header with Walsh, losing the first game 2-5 and winning the second 6-1.



Senior pitcher Nathan Bancroft has the second lowest earned run average on the team at 3.69 in his first full season as a pitcher.



Freshman Connor Culhane throws out a runner at first. Culhane is fourth on the team in batting average at .311



Freshman Eli Sanchez Freshman is third on the team in home runs with three and fifth on the team in batting average at .305.