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New Spring Break Model: Reaching “Uttermost Parts of World”

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Through Cedarville University’s Global Outreach department, 140 students traveled on 10 international and five domestic missions trips during the university’s recent spring break February 27- March 8.

Cedarville’s global outreach is designed to provide students with opportunities to serve domestically and internationally. The students are challenged to apply their book knowledge with practical and biblical ministry to make an impact in the lives of people they meet.

The students who capitalize on these opportunities, after raising their own financial support, are trained by campus staff for their outreach assignment. When serving others, the students are guided by a leader who connects them with an outreach organization to evangelize and provide services to those in need to make an eternal impact.

During spring break, students served many needs throughout the world, including in areas of dentistry, pharmaceuticals and medical assistance, sports camps, children and youth ministries, adult special needs, construction and evangelism techniques.

Senior student Sam Hinckley recalls his experience from a spring break trip to the Dominican Republic.

“Our team was able to set up 3 medical and dental pop-up clinics in villages for the local people. The first two were through church plants and they allowed us to set up in their facilities. The last one was in an all-girls orphanage where we were able to perform scheduled tooth extractions or
fillings as well as perform basic physical exams on the girls as a routine checkup,” says Hinckley.

When speaking of his experience at the orphanage, Hinckley commented, “Even though there was a severe language barrier, love is a universal language. Showing love to the girls there lifted their spirits and it was evident in the way they reciprocated our love. Although they had nothing, they were still willing to give up their bracelets to us, play games with us, and even carve our names in a cactus.”

Hinckley commends the program and his personal team, mentioning that the trip aided the Dominican locals as well as the individual Cedarville students who participated.

“In being able to work alongside fellow believers, while combining our desire to serve the Lord and our passion for medicine, is something I'll carry forever. Anyone who has the ability to participate in a GO trip should GO!”

The international spring break trips included visits to Peru, El Salvador, The Dominican Republic, Eleuthera, Guatemala, Honduras, India and Mexico. The five domestic teams partnered with The Angel House in Detroit; Inner City Impact of Chicago; Hawthorne Gospel Church in New York City; Service Over Self of Memphis, and Shepherds Ministries in Union Grove, Wisconsin.

Since the spring break short-term missions initiative began, more than 6,000 Cedarville students have visited 91 countries.

“We are so blessed by the number of students, faculty and staff that desire to serve over spring break! We are also blessed by the gospel based host organizations that desire our teams to serve alongside the resident missionaries and ministry staff,” says Brian Nester, director of global outreach.

To learn more about Global Outreach go to: http://www.cedarville.edu/Christian-Ministries/Global-Outreach.aspx
Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,620 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings.