



September 2014

Truth Corps 2014



Back: Tim, Maggie, Gideon
Middle: Jeff, Zack, Becca, Matt, Elijah, Tara, Noah, Allen
Front: Jordan, Debbie, Myra, Autumn, Stephanie

The 2014 Truth Corps Team returned in August from 4 weeks devoted to preaching the Gospel in Virginia, Guyana, and Tobago. This year's team consisted of 4 young Brothers and 4 young Sisters: Brothers Jordan Milne, Zach Kemp, Gideon Hewitson, and Matthew Sturgeon, and Sisters Anna Margaret Hoult, Stephanie Keating, Autumn Burns, and Rebecca Pommer. The team was led, at various locations, by Brother Allen and Sister Tara Laben, Brother Duncan Kenzie, and Sister Myra Lucke.

The team began their journey at the Norfolk, Virginia ecclesia, where they completed their training (a combination of team-building and preaching-training sessions), engaged in their first door-to-door preaching work together as a team, and also assisted the ecclesia with a Vacation Bible School for the children in the local community and their parents. Here are some of the things the team said about their time in Norfolk:

"I found our door to door preaching in Norfolk to be a very beneficial experience. It not only benefited those who heard our presentations, but it also benefited us. It

helped us to improve preaching skills, to build close friendships, and to spread God's message. When walking from house to house, we were able to talk to each other about our preaching experience at the last house. We discussed how we did and how we can improve next time. 'Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another' (Proverbs 27:17)." -Jordan Milne

"My Norfolk experience was incredible. It was so amazing to see how many children, even outside of the Truth, that were so eager and willing to learn. We can learn from these children's experience and put it to use in our own lives. We need to be as little children with open minds and hearts, always eager and willing to learn more about God's Word, and then going on to spread it to others. The door-to-door preaching was a



Bro. Allen leading a training session in Norfolk

new experience for me. I have never done anything like that before and I am so thankful I was able to do so. You get used to the closed doors and people who aren't interested but that doesn't stop you from pressing on. It is well worth the closed doors if even one person is willing to listen to you." -Rebecca Pommer



Practicing preaching during Truth Corps training

"The Vacation Bible School was a huge success at the Norfolk Chapel. There were 29 kids on the first day, and that number increased to 37 on the second day! The kids absolutely loved it, as well as all those involved in organizing and running the Bible School. It was a great way to share God's word and to get the Christadelphian name out into the community. The ecclesia also benefited from making many contacts who are happy and eager to come back for Sunday school and CYC events, as well as their parents who were very impressed with the success of the Bible School and are interested to learn more." -Jordan Milne

"Norfolk was an amazing way for us to start the Truth Corps experience. From seeing the kids at the VBS have such a desire for God's word, to sitting down with someone for the first time and trying to explain to them the scriptures and the importance of God's promises, to visiting with the families and young people from the Norfolk area, it was one of the most uplifting weeks of my life. One of my favorite memories was sitting down with a woman from the very first door we knocked on, and trying to explain how our beliefs matter to God. After spending an hour and a half with her just engaging in Biblical conversation, we soon realized that we had to leave and get back to the hall - we had spent all of our leafleting time with the first woman we talked to!" -Gideon Hewitson



Crafts at the Norfolk Vacation Bible School

"My experience in Norfolk was wonderful. At the end of the Vacation Bible School, seeing all the kids sing and recite the verses was more than we could have hoped for. They were enthusiastic, they were excited, and they were all in unison. By the end of the week, I definitely felt like the ecclesia and the kids had done much more for us than we had done for them. God blessed us with so many positive experiences and brought us all closer together as a family of believers." -Matthew Sturgeon



Outside the ecclesial hall in Guyana

Next, the Truth Corps team flew down to South America to spend two weeks working and preaching among the Brethren in Guyana. Their main activities included working with the CYC and assisting with / teaching at a Youth Camp, conducting two vacation Bible Schools and doing door-to-door canvassing. In addition, 3 young people in Guyana joined the team as in-country Truth Corps members - Brother Adrian David, and Sisters Faida N'djelekulu and Abigail Semple.

"I found the door to door preaching in Guyana to be a great learning experience. One of the main challenges I had with preaching before this was that I wasn't sure how to initiate the conversation about God's word in a way that others would make them interested. While going from village to village, we had the privilege to preach to a variety of people from all different backgrounds and religions. After trying to preach to a number of people, I realized that you can't use the same teaching style and teaching material with everyone. Some people may have difficulty understanding or identifying with a topic that others may have fully grasped and understood. I learned that the most effective way to preach is dependent on who the person is. Here is an example of what worked for me: After introducing yourself and breaking the ice with them, the first step is to learn about them. Find out where they are at regarding the Bible. What is their religious background? Have they read the Bible? What do they believe? Once you find out where they are at, then you will know where to start: either lay a foundation and teach them of God's word, or build on what they already know." -Jordan Milne



Leafletting in Guyana

"It was wonderful being able to meet and spend time with the ecclesias in Guyana. I really enjoyed the fellowship we shared with the Brethren. We also had the opportunity to



With Sunday School students in Guyana

put on two different Vacation Bible schools. I worked with the older kids in both places, and I learned a lot from the experience. There's nothing like seeing a child's eyes light up when they understand a principle from Scripture. I look forward to going back, God willing!" - Matthew Sturgeon

"The experience in Guyana was amazing. The brethren and sisters there in all 6 ecclesias we visited were very welcoming and really made me feel like I was at home. Preaching was very different there - you don't go "door-to-door" preaching, you go "gate-to-gate". Almost every house has a front gate where we would stand and call "inside!" for them to come out. It was rare if someone ignored you; most people in Guyana are very receptive to what you have to say and accept any pamphlet you offer

them. Spending time with the CYC in each ecclesia was one of my favorite parts. It was awesome to see how much we could encourage them just by showing them the importance of why we were there and giving them our time to get to know them a bit better. I believe they all enjoyed the time they had with us as much as we did with them. I plan on returning someday if I can!" - Rebecca Pommer

"While the team was in Georgetown, we spent some time handing out pamphlets with information about the Bible on them, and asking people if they would like to know more about the promises to Abraham; how the promises God made to Abraham relate to us, and why they are so important. The team split off into groups of two, sometimes three, and we each gave presentations regarding our faith to complete strangers. I will definitely never forget doing that - I don't think I've been so nervous in my entire life! We also had a Vacation Bible School in Mocha, and over 70 children from the village showed up! With some effort and a lot of teamwork the VBS was a huge success." - Autumn Burns



Canvassing outside of Georgetown

"The two weeks we spent in Guyana were some of the most exhausting and challenging, and yet spiritually uplifting and encouraging weeks of our lives. The team really bonded over these two weeks! We were constantly spending time with the local Christadelphian young people, and seeing their motivation to know God's word and how our presence really helped them was amazing. From learning how to play cricket, to teaching them to play American football, to playing hours and hours of the "Animal game", the young people were always a highlight of our weeks together. One of my favorite memory is of meeting a man who had discovered most of the true Gospel for himself, and sitting down with him for two days in a row and explaining the promises to Abraham and how they applied to us - seeing his desire to learn was fantastic. Our last night in Guyana we got together with the members of the Georgetown meeting, and put on skits and shows for each other. The fellowship there was an amazing memory that I will not soon forget." - Gideon Hewitson



Playing soccer with the Mt. Grace CYC in Tobago

Finally, the team flew to Tobago for their final week of mission work to assist with the annual Trinidad and Tobago Bible School, preach downtown and from house-to-house and support the local CYC at the Mt. Grace ecclesia.

"Tobago is a beautiful island, both in the physical beauty of the place, and the spiritual beauty of the Brethren we visited." -Matthew Sturgeon

"While in Tobago our team had the privilege of leafleting in the busy town of Scarborough. Our task was to walk around the busy streets full of pedestrians, to hand out leaflets and talk to people about God's plan for the world. This was definitely a great learning experience for all of us. We were not only following Jesus' command to preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16), but through the experience we were also developing our effectiveness to preach, our confidence to share God's word, and most importantly our faith. It was very encouraging to observe the interest and responsiveness of the general public when prompting them with the question: Are you interested in learning about God's plan with the word? I didn't realize that so many people are truly interested in hearing what the Bible has to say. The words of Christ echoed out to me from John 4:31: "Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest". It may be that the people of Tobago are generally more receptive, but I am confident that back in North America there will be people similarly searching for truth." -Jordan Milne



Sharing a meal at the Tobago Bible School

"Tobago was a fantastic week. We again had a great time going out door-to-door preaching. At this point we had learned a lot and I think we may have made our greatest impact in Tobago. Meeting the local young people was again an amazing highlight. Seeing some of the young people who had not been coming out to ecclesial events recently, and having them there with us, was an amazing and encouraging moment for each of us on the team. Overall, Truth Corps was a life changing 4 weeks, and I would strongly encourage anyone and everyone to go. If you



Bro. Matt teaching a class on Proverbs

for harvest!"

don't have time, make it. If you don't like new things, give it a chance. The past month changed my life for the better, and I cannot wait to implement the things I learned back home." - Gideon Hewitson

We are thankful that our Heavenly Father blessed the efforts of Truth Corps this past summer, and we pray that He might give increase to the seeds that the team planted and watered! God willing, we will host another Truth Corps program in 2015, and we encourage all those interested to serve as a host ecclesia, team leader or team member to visit www.cbma.net and fill out the Volunteer Information form, indicating their interest. As our Lord and Master said, the fields are "white



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