



beachREACH

south padre island, tx

During Spring Break this year, Dallas Baptist University students participated in two trips to spread the Gospel and serve those in need. Staying in Texas, a DBU team of nine students, with leaders Chris Holloway, BSM director, and Bailey Pentecost, BSM women's ministry coordinator, traveled to South Padre Island to participate in Beach Reach.

Founded over 30 years ago by a BSM director from Dallas, the Beach Reach ministry now incorporates hundreds of college students from BSMs across the nation during the Spring Break week and has expanded from just South Padre to multiple beach-front locations across the nation.

For the week of Spring Break, the team from DBU joined together with 700 other volunteers from 22 other Texas churches and BSMs to offer the college students on vacation free middle-of-the-night rides from the beach, along with late night and early morning breakfasts. They also spent portions of their days trying to meet people and praying for them.

The theme for the Beach Reach volunteers was Mark 4:14, which states, "The sower sows the Word!" Throughout the week, this continually served as a reminder to the DBU team that while they are responsible for sharing the Word of God, ultimately the Lord is the only One who can make the seeds of salvation grow.

"This challenged me to remember that the Gospel is infinitely attractive on its own, so if I share and sow the Word, I can rest and pray that the Lord will do what only He can do: change the heart!" recalled Chris.

As a result, the team was able to come home with countless stories of ways they saw the Lord working in other college students' lives, even seeing some of their new friends come to faith in Christ.

"Beach Reach is honestly one of the most meaningful things I've been a part of in my life," explained Chris. "I think more than even the students we went to reach, the lives of those on our team have been changed and shaped for the better. We were so stretched in this ministry, and the lessons we learned are something we don't want to end—ministry doesn't end when we get home."

During the same week, 17 students traveled to Pensacola, Florida, to help build a house for a family through Habitat for Humanity. While DBU has participated in Spring Break mission trips with Habitat for Humanity for the past 23 years, it was the first time for many of the students on the trip to help build a house. With able bodies and willing hearts, the students soon learned the tasks necessary to complete the construction project from the foundation up.

For two days of the project, DBU student Jacob Winslager worked alongside a young man named Robert. As Jacob talked with Robert, he learned Robert had suffered a great loss and that his family would be receiving one of the houses built by Habitat for Humanity that week.

"Robert would walk through the incomplete house with a huge smile on his face," Jacob explained. "He would walk in each room and just smile as he observed every detail of what our hands had just put together... imagining what he would put in each room and how he was going to arrange everything. He received a great joy from a great blessing."

As an indirect result, Jacob and his teammates were equally blessed by being able to see a glimpse of the fruit of their labor.

Led by Andrew Briscoe, DBU's director of service learning, and Christy Gandy, director of global missions, projects included framing the house, decking the roof to prepare for shingles, wrapping the house in preparation for siding, and preparing the inside of the house for insulation, plumbing, and electricity.

One of the greatest lessons the students took away from the week was the value of teamwork. By working together with new friends and having a teachable spirit, the students learned that much can be achieved.

DBU junior Kristin Autry says she will never forget the house that was built. "I had no idea how much hard work it takes to build something as simple as a home held together by precisely placed nails and pieces of wood," she expressed. "It's a great feeling when you leave the house site at the end of the week, knowing you helped build this home for someone when it was just a slab of concrete when you arrived."

The students returned to DBU at the end of the week with a fresh perspective on ministry and sharing the Gospel, learning it can be achieved in countless ways, from hammering a nail to serving breakfast.



HABITAT

FOR HUMANITY

pensacola, florida

CHORALE travels to EUROPE

The DBU Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Holcomb, professor of music and director of choral activities, had the privilege of representing the University by giving concerts in Germany, the Czech Republic, and Austria during Spring Break, March 8-18. Musical highlights of the trip included providing music for a worship service at St. Thomaskirche in Leipzig, Germany, the church where Johann Sebastian Bach served as director of music from 1723-1750; presenting full concerts at the Czech Museum of Music in Prague, Czech Republic and St. Peterskirche in Vienna, Austria; and singing mini-concerts at the Haydn Church and in the Haydn Hall at the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria.

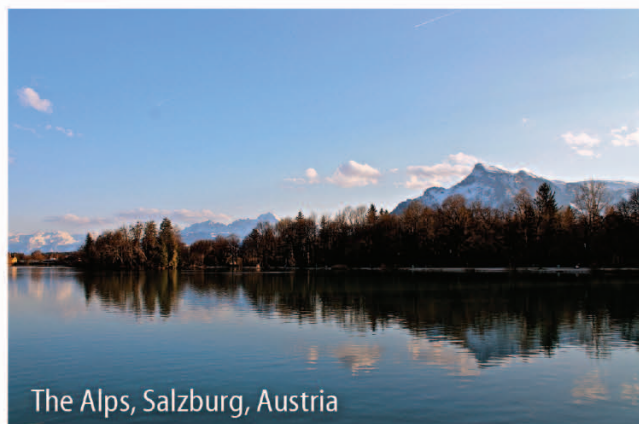
Another highlight of the week was an impromptu concert at the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) in Wittenberg, Germany, where the Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, nailed his 95 theses to the door in 1517, protesting the selling of indulgences by the Catholic Church. The choir also had the opportunity to see a performance of Puccini's opera, Madam Butterfly, at the Vienna State Opera House.

Everywhere the Chorale sang, the audiences applauded their performances enthusiastically. The students also had many opportunities to share their faith with those who attended the concerts.

DBU Chorale members on the trip included Katie Adcock, Sarah Allen, Hayden Barns, Minhee Bea, Andy Benke, Janna Carroll, Ben Cockerell, Summer Coleman, James Douglas, Alex Farr, Abigail Furlow, Hannah Hoover, Drew Hunt, Sarah Hurst, Laurena Jech, Kathryn Jester, Aaron Jones, Ben Lubbers, Rebecca Miller, David Mills, Edi Morris, Rachel Nichols, Colton Necessary, Seth O'Neal, Sarah Pool, Molly Prescott, Regan Rothenberger, Kristin Sigmund, Morgan Swafford, Corey Terwilliger, Christy Tittle, Renee Weldon, Sarah Young, and Whitney Zorn. Sara Marantz (pianist), Ron Bowles (dean of the College of Fine Arts) and his wife, Suzanne (adjunct professor of voice), and Stephen and Patty Holcomb (nurse) accompanied the Chorale as sponsors.



Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany



The Alps, Salzburg, Austria



Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany

SPRING BREAK