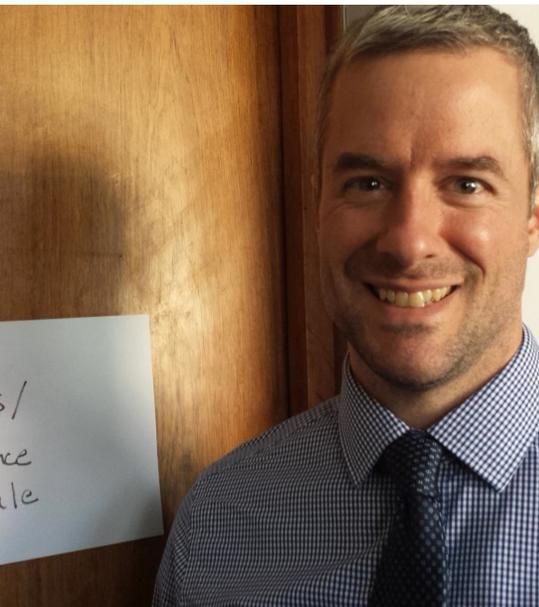


REDEEMER 2015

MISSIONS





THANK YOU

FOR YOUR INTEREST IN *REDEEMER CITY TO CITY MISSION TRIPS!*

In 2015, fourteen Short Term Missions teams helped fulfill the Great Commission by traveling to countries all over the world. Each trip had a specific theme and focus while they accomplished various tasks and projects. Mission trips are special endeavors that can have a major impact, with Redeemer trips uniquely serving the purpose of connecting participants with church planters who have partnered with City to City, Redeemer’s church planting arm. This relationship provides for a deeper connection as we seek to serve the needs of international churches while educating Redeemer congregants about their ministries. We appreciate your support, encouragement, and interest in STM endeavors! The following summaries, written by team members, are of our teams’ trips to the following locations:

- South Africa iKhetelo
- South Africa Lily of the Valley Orphanage
- South Africa Johannesburg
- South Africa Capetown
- Guatemala Guatemala City
- Madagascar Madagascar
- India Chennai/Bangalore
- India Mumbai
- Phillippines Phillippines
- Japan Tokyo

3 teams in

MADAGASCAR

“The team truly felt the Lord’s powerful presence and guidance at work.”



Our teams worked alongside a group of great local ministers and organizations including Pastor “Tank” from **Tana City Center Church**, Anri-Louise from **Growing the Nations Therapy Programs**, and the Midleys, a missionary family from South Africa.

This summer was especially exciting as we sent the first ever education ministry team to Madagascar! The planning had been in the works since last summer and we were so thrilled to see it come to fruition this past July. The focus for the team was to partner with Tana City Church and Growing the Nations to serve the special education community, an often overlooked demographic in Madagascar. The team offered a

three-day children’s camp consisting of worship songs, games, and arts and crafts. The team also integrated a parent’s camp to provide an opportunity for the parents to rejuvenate themselves, share their unique experiences, and to learn new ways to love and care for their children.

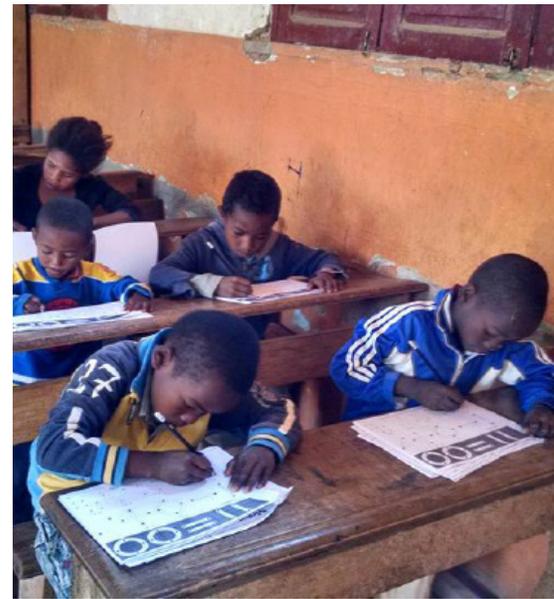
The second half of the trip was spent facilitating workshops for the leaders of the education system – teachers, principals, and representatives from the Ministry of Education. The team covered a wide array of topics: best practices in the classroom, essential skills in management and leadership, public speaking, and much more. Our inaugural service project was very well received as we noted in the

positive feedback after the event, and we are already in discussions to send future teams to build upon the relationships forged this summer! While there were many challenges in running an inaugural service project, the entire team felt abundantly blessed. Despite some feelings of doubt that our topics were not going to be culturally sensitive or relevant, varying levels of educational experience on the team, and that so much was out of our control, the team truly felt the Lord’s powerful presence and guidance at work. What an exciting time to be in Madagascar!



“The team returned deeply affected by the magnitude of the need we witnessed, but also grateful to God for the work He is doing...”

This year, a team of 10 people traveled to Antananarivo, Madagascar on a medical mission. This was the third year for this trip, and this year's team included doctors, nurses, a physical therapist, a periodontist, and a mother-daughter translation team. The team started the week by conducting a 2-day training session for local healthcare providers covering the most current guidelines in the diagnosis and management of a wide range of medical problems. This provided an ideal forum for a conversation between team members and the local medical professionals about similarities and differences in practice. It also helped to increase the standing of **Growing the Nations Therapy Program**, an organization dedicated to better healthcare for the country, with the Ministry of Health in Madagascar.



In the middle of the week, the team had a day to visit with the training participants at the hospitals and medical clinics where they work. Then the team spent the last two days of the week conducting a medical clinic at **Tana City Center Church** as part of the church's outreach to the local homeless population, while our periodontist visited an orphanage to provide much needed dental care for the children there. On the evenings and weekends the team enjoyed some great fellowship with each other and with the wonderful friends we have made in Madagascar over the last few years. Overall, the team returned deeply affected by the magnitude of the need we witnessed, but also grateful to God for the work He is doing in Madagascar through His church and the pastors and missionaries He has placed there.



The Madagascar Business Finance trip was a team of seven professionals who prepared a business conference curriculum to teach the locals of Antananarivo about gospel-centered, sustainable business practices. Topics included business idea generation, budgeting, marketing, and financing as it pertains to the country.

The conference spanned four full days with lunch-time devotions connecting the curriculum to the gospel. The conference ended with the team sponsoring Madagascar's first New York style brunch. The team joined **Tana City Center Church** for their weekly homeless outreach,

providing a hot meal and a worship service to homeless women and children from the city.

Our team was moved by the warmth of everyone we met, from the host families to the street kids. We were very inspired by witnessing the dedication of Pastor Tank, the Midgley family, Gavin and Anrie Louise. Our team is already planning what this trip needs to be next year, now that we better understand the needs faced by the wonderful people we served.

First trip to GUATEMALA

“God used the diversity of our team in powerful ways to help us minister to the multitude of children, adults, and families we encountered.”



Redeemer's first mission trip to Guatemala was an incredible experience where our team was able to partner with two local organizations to support their ministries and serve the local community. Guatemala is a country that has struggled economically due to a 36-year civil war that ended in 1996, resulting in continued widespread corruption among the political and business classes.

Today, 54% of the population lives below the poverty line and roughly half of the children under age 5 are chronically malnourished. God used the diversity of our team in powerful ways to help us minister to the multitude of children, adults, and families we encountered. We had the privilege of teaming up with a group of seven mostly young adults from **Infinity Bible Church** in the Bronx

for the first time. This partnership turned out to be a huge blessing for our team and those we served as we were able to use our different strengths and experiences to be God's hands and feet. Together we represented all different ethnicities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and occupations. The goal of our team during our 10 day trip was to further the work of two Christian organizations that are already transforming people's lives with God's unconditional love.

The first organization we served, called **Asociación Buena Vista**, is an elementary school, church, community center and mission center located in Chimaltenango. The center, recently founded by missionaries, including a couple from Redeemer named Stephen and Juliet Choi, is already the second highest

performing elementary school in the area. During our stay at **Buena Vista**, we joined with other missionaries to do home visits in the nearby neighborhood to pray with families and bring them needed supplies like food, soap, and children's toys. Our time of prayer in these homes, many of which were nothing more than a dirt floor surrounded by tin walls and a tin roof, often moved both families and team mates to tears. We also had the privilege of helping to organize and operate a mini-festival for a nearby Mayan village. At the festival, we offered several health stations (including a dentist, acupuncturist, pharmacy, and eye care station) as well as stations for haircuts, nail painting, and games for children. One of the greatest joys for our team was being able to purchase a new pump for a 100-meter deep well being hand-dug on the Buena



Vista campus that will provide fresh water for the whole facility as well as some of the neighborhood. This fresh water will be a huge blessing for them as the Chimaltenango city water is unreliable and not safe for drinking.

We also partnered with **Casa para Niños Aleluya**, a large orphanage caring for 450 children ages 0-25 on a 15-acre campus. **Casa Aleluya** is filling a huge void in Guatemala by caring for the homeless, abandoned, abused, orphaned, and chronically ill children. Many of these children's personal stories are absolutely horrific, but Casa Aleluya is completely changing their lives by feeding and clothing them, educating them, and teaching them about the redemption only found in Jesus. While there, our team cared for the babies, organized many fun activities for the older children, and supported the staff. We also had a nurse on our team who cared for several children who were on kidney dialysis. Highlights of our time there included an intense fútbol (soccer) tournament with the teenage boys, where every

participant received a large bottle of Axe shower gel, and a lunch/ shopping outing with the college-age girls to the beautiful city of Antigua. Witnessing God's miraculous work in wiping the hopelessness out of these children's lives at Casa Aleluya was amazing.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to participate in the work of these ministries and for the gifts of many generous donors who made the trip possible. We hope that this is only the beginning of a long partnership between Redeemer and **Asociación Buena Vista** and **Casa Aleluya**.

“Many of these children’s personal stories are absolutely horrific, but Casa Aleluya is completely changing their lives by feeding and clothing them, educating them, and teaching them about the redemption only found in Jesus.”

First trip to

CHENNAI & BANGALORE



Our trip to South India was a first-time endeavor for Redeemer. We divided our time between Chennai and Bangalore, where we partnered with City to City church plants in both cities. In Chennai we partnered with several outreach programs of **The Powerhouse Church**. We worked with **Aruwe**, a home for destitute elderly women and after-school program for local children, a government home for women rescued from sex trafficking, and **Remar**, an orphanage and program for men and women recovering from addiction. Our last day in Chennai we were able to visit the **International Justice Mission** office and hear about the radical, life-changing work they are doing in the fight to end human slavery. We also participated in the work of **Women of Worth**, a nonprofit started by the wife of the pastor of the **Powerhouse Church**. One of our teammates taught a social media workshop to the leaders of **Women of Worth**, and we hosted a thanksgiving dinner to celebrate what God is doing through the work of Women of Worth.



We spent the second portion of our trip in Bangalore, where we worked with a budding church plant and **Yuvalok**, an organization with whom the church planters have developed a relationship. **Yuvalok** is a school that provides high quality education to rescued child laborers and street children living in the slums of Bangalore. Many of these kids are the first in their families to receive an education. We assisted with educational programs, arts and crafts, one-on-one reading practice, and a career awareness day for high school students. We also taught conversational English at Yuvalok's program, "Threads for Life" that also takes place on the school's campus. Threads for Life provides job training to disadvantaged women from the villages, some of whom were victims of sex trafficking and bonded labor as well.

During our evenings in Bangalore, we were able to spend time with Pastor Mike and Stacy Wiebe and learn from them and the work they are asking God to do in their city. We hosted a wine and painting event for ladies in their community. Over fifty women attended and were able to connect with each other and build relationships that we hope will contribute to a solid foundation of a new church plant.



We were so blessed to have such gracious hosts in Chennai and Bangalore who helped our days run as smoothly as possible. It was such a joy to get to know our brothers and sisters in India and participate in the work of mercy and justice that God is doing through them. We are excited to continue these new relationships in the coming years!

“It was great having the missions team partner with us in Chennai & Bangalore. It was a great blessing for Powerhouse & the other ministries you visited. Though it was a young team they displayed a lot of maturity and a real heart to serve that was a delight to see. Please convey our sincere gratitude to the team for their investment into this trip as well as the many generous donors who made it all possible. This was a great beginning and we look forward to many fruitful years of partnership!”

—Jeyakaran Emmanuel, Pastor, Powerhouse Church in Chennai, India

Three teams to LILY & JOHANNESBURG



This year, Redeemer sent three teams to **Lily of the Valley Orphanage**. Our first team's visit coincided with the children's winter school break, so we were able to devote our entire day, everyday, to spending time with them. We wanted to take advantage of this and do special activities the children normally didn't do, so we decided to take them all on field trips. We scheduled daily trips to the beach in Durban, along with trips to a picnic at the Durban Botanical Gardens, a guided tour at the Durban Natural Science Museum, a hike in the nearby Krantzklouf Mountains and an afternoon at the movies, complete with individual soft drinks and popcorn (the kids loved this one especially!). Amazingly — by the grace of God — we didn't lose a single child (or teammate) on any of our trips.

During our non-field trip time, our team's brother-sister "dental dynamic duo" provided dental care to all 100+ children, and other teammates taught classes in basic

accounting, social media, communications and writing to the Lily teens. We also bonded with many of the Lily teens, and have continued to correspond with and help mentor these teens on the cusp of adulthood. This is certainly a stressful time for them, as they are among the first generation to age out of Lily and are uncertain about what the coming years will look like for them. In spite of this, our team was constantly amazed by the joy and maturity of the Lily teens, especially during the first four days of our trip when we assisted the teens in a Holiday Club (essentially a Vacation Bible School) they organized for children in the local community. It was beautiful to see the Lily teens sharing the gospel to 100+ local children. We know God has amazing plans for the children at Lily, and we are working with Lily staff to set up scholarships and other ways to support their future endeavors.



Our goal for the second 2015 team at **Lily Orphanage** was to support their daily administrative needs. It was truly a delight to be able to support **Lily** by helping the back-end work of the organization. Some team members completed the annual sponsorship reports for each child at Lily - editing, updating, compiling, formatting, etc. These reports update financial sponsors on their child's progress and life at Lily. With limited Wi-Fi and power outages and laptops that must be plugged in to function, the process was rather frustrating and inefficient, to say the least. But looking back, we sensed that God

was slowing us down, bringing us into Africa time (where people see time in a very different way!), to enjoy the fellowship we have working together and to remind us who is spearheading these projects. God led us to embrace the unexpected breaks as we continued to work. Other team members led a clothing warehouse clean-up project. They spent many days reorganizing the storage room - an incredible feat, for which the Lily staff was extremely grateful.

Our afternoons with the kids blessed us tremendously as well. We spent time building relationships with the kids -



painting, dancing, studying the Word together, gathering for “stikelele” (s’mores) around our campfire, helping with homework and reading, and making bracelets with beautiful yarn from Italy (brought by a team member)! We enjoyed intense basketball games and we hosted a talent show, where the youth had an opportunity to show off their hip hop dance skills and beautiful Zulu songs. Our team also presented three-part performance – an NYC spectacle of song, dance, and glitter batons - as a farewell to Lily!

Finally, the long-term missionaries blessed us with their stories over dinner each night. They are passionate about work at Lily and absolutely love sharing this special place with short-term groups because they recognize that when people come here, their lives are changed. A former Redemerite who is now on staff at Lily shared about her journey to Lily and the way God made her trust in Him when she first thought about moving to South Africa for the long-term. She explained how her journey to Lily was also a journey in learning to trust in God’s plan for her life. We were all moved, challenged, and ready to be enabled by God. It was a privilege to hear from her, as well as missionaries from Germany, Wales, Michigan, NY, and California. We felt wonderfully comforted to sit at a table built upon faith and courage from Christ.

“He has told you, O man, what is good... to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

—Micah 6:8

Trip to CAPETOWN



This past August, we served with our brothers and sisters in Christ at **Common Ground** and **Jubilee** churches in Cape Town. Cape Town is home to Robben Island, the island prison on which Nelson Mandela was held captive in the years before the ending of apartheid. The church has a unique opportunity to be a catalyst for unity in South Africa with the joy of the Lord toward that end.

Our team worked with homeless women seeking to build their fledgling **Hope Soap** business. Team members mixed coconut and essential oil into soap bars while encouraging the women in their faith and moved seamlessly from manufacturing to sales. We also went to **Jubilee Church's** health clinic to serve coffee and tea and pray with patients and their families in the waiting room.

Zanokhanyo is an organization that serves the unemployed with a faith-based life training, and works with two large retailers in Cape Town to provide service personnel. We facilitated two sessions with their training staff, demonstrating how Bible stories can be used to inform work-place scenarios like serving an unfair boss (David serving King Saul), dealing with racism (Queen Esther), finding identity and confidence in the Lord (Moses being used after fleeing the palace of Pharaoh) or simply forgiveness (Joseph and his brothers in Egypt).

We also went to Khayelitsha, which is a township reported to have over a million residents and to be one of the poorest areas of Cape Town. We held an informal Vacation Bible School for smiling kids begging for some hugs. The hero of the afternoons was Moses: the baby thrown in the river Nile; the fugitive from Pharaoh; the man God selected to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land.



Team of seven to TOKYO



Redeemer continued to cultivate its relationship with **Grace City Church** by sending a team of seven to Tokyo in October. Though the statistics may slightly vary, it is understood that the Christian population in Japan is less than 1%. There is a great need for people to hear the gospel, and two effective forms of ministry have been the integration of faith and work, and the arts. The focus of our trip was to assist the church in their ministry by hosting a faith and work event, and assisting in their annual arts festival, called "The Heart of the Arts."

The integration of faith and work is a huge ministry, and has proven to be an effective catalyst in presenting the gospel to business workers in Tokyo. **Grace City Church** has lunchtime meetings throughout the week in which businessmen and businesswomen will meet at lunch and hold a Bible study and pray for one another. It is during this time that they also can share either work concerns, or encourage one another in how they see the gospel impacting their work.

Our team participated in the lunchtime meetings throughout the week and we were able to share our experiences and edify one another with testimonies and prayer.

We hosted an evening event in the middle of the week where Pastor John Lin spoke about how and why we work and how a gospel worldview redeems our relationship with work. Everyone on our team shared personal testimonies of

“We were able to discuss in more depth how the gospel has shaped our worldview and affected the way we engage in our work.”



faith and work. After the event, we were able to discuss in more depth how the gospel has shaped our worldview and affected the way we engage in our work.

The trip was highly relational. Another aspect of our trip was traveling throughout the city to meet up with young Japanese Christians. The meetings gave these young men and women a chance to practice speaking English, as well as an opportunity to hear more about Jesus and Christianity from another believer.

Our trip ended with an arts festival called The Heart of the Arts. The day-long festival featured performances in music, theater and had presentations from photographers and painters. Three of our team members are professional artists (a singer, a pianist and an actor), and they performed in the festival. At the end of the day, the artists led workshops and had question and answer sessions with the attendees. This was an exciting opportunity for both Christians and non-Christians to ask the artists from our team how their faith affects their art.

Grace City Church hopes that our team will be able return regularly for years to come, and that we will continue to build our relationship and encourage and pray for one another as we all desire to see His Kingdom come.

Second trip to PHILLIPPINES

“It’s been awe-inspiring to witness how God can bring together people from different parts of the world with such amazing talents. “



We participated in the inaugural **Heroes** (Church) Thanksgiving Festival, which covered several days starting in Manila and wrapping up at **LifeRock Center** in Tacloban. Within Manila, several of the team members as well as Heroes members provided testimony about how faith impacted their work life and their lives in general. In turn, this provided a way for our team members to connect and relate to the locals, who shared what they were grateful to have learned from hearing the testimonies. In addition, other team members from Heroes shared their musical talents through performances between the talks. We also ran a Thank You Card making workshop, which encouraged participants to express and give thanks in written form! Additionally, we provided an excel workshop to jumpstart a different approach to stewardship. The final day in Manila started with reaching out to the community at the main bus stations by providing free water on a hot day and inviting them to a free Thanksgiving meal that evening. During our Thanksgiving meal, one of the local people was able to share her story as a survivor of Typhoon Haiyan in Tacloban. Many others connected over a simple meal!

Within **LifeRock Center** for Heroes Tacloban, we also collaborated with a team from **Redemption Hill Church Singapore**. We worked together to paint a mural providing a message of hope to the community and the local church. We were able to spend time with the children there, playing games, painting on the wall, painting their faces, and various other activities. During the day, members of our team went out into the town to invite local kids and teens to our music event in the evening. We ended the Arts & Music Festival with a worship session lead by amazing talented people from Heroes, Redeemer, Life Rock, and Redemption that came together with the community to worship and bring glory to God.

Throughout the trip, it was a blessing to hear other people’s stories and their life struggles. It’s been awe-inspiring to witness how God can bring together people from different parts of the world with such amazing talents. And it was amazing to see the resiliency of the people affected by the typhoon and how God is using his people to be an integral part of the rebuilding of Tacloban.

Fourth year to MUMBAI



In its fourth year, the Mumbai mission team embarked on an eye-opening journey into the heart of human and sex trafficking issues within India. With a team that numbered twice the size of prior teams, 13 of us doubled down on efforts to bring light to the victims of sex trafficking through spiritual, educational, and artistic activities. This was made possible thanks to a blossoming partnership with two organizations on the ground: **International Justice Mission** and an organization which must remain anonymous for security purposes.

We started our trip in the Red Light District of

Kamathipura, Mumbai, arguably the world's largest hub for sex trafficking. (It is reported that 40% of the world's human slaves live in India.) After worshipping at the Red Light District Church alongside women, some of whom still work in the brothels, we drove through the Red Light District's winding roads. Though we were shielded from view in a car, the scene was a harrowing glimpse of the reality that some 300,000 women experience daily in Mumbai.

We then traveled to a recently-built educational facility providing education to approximately 40 rescued children



“Despite their difficult circumstances, God’s light and hope radiated through them as living proof that His grace reigns no matter the situation.”

of women in prostitution. Over the course of 4 days, our team led Bible Study, financial literacy classes, arts and crafts activities, and homework help. To top it off, our events team “made it rain” with sprinkles and glitter at this and two other facilities; one housed rescued women and their children, and the other housed HIV positive children. Dressed in fedoras, glowsticks, and fancy shades, the girls and boys had a blast posing at our instant Polaroid Photo Booth!

On our final two days, we returned to Mumbai and met with IJM to learn more about their unique strategy to protect the poor from violence. We were blessed with the opportunity to meet with a leader of one of the Mumbai outreach ministries, Pastor Guy. Guy is an inspiring and energetic soul with a heart for the poor. He took us to a slum community where he ministers, where we met with a family who graciously welcomed us into their home. We then prayed over each other.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to purchase an abundant stock of groceries for the family, a nebulizer to aid with a mother’s asthma, as well as a new motorcycle for Pastor Guy! We hope that these gifts can nourish the family’s health and ease Pastor Guy’s travel to and from the slums.

Additionally, we were able to spend some time with Redeemer’s City-to-City partner, **C3 Church**, and witness the incredible work they are doing to build the Christian community in Mumbai. We were happy to provide them a laptop to help support the church as it grows.



Through each of our interactions, we were moved by the generosity and love abounding from those we met. Despite their difficult circumstances, God’s light and hope radiated through them as living proof that His grace reigns no matter the situation.

We pray that God may continue to provide for the restored spirits of those affected by the scourge of human slavery. There is more work to be done, and we are already excited for next year’s trip and trust that if it is God’s will, it will happen!

Trip to

IKHETHELO, KwaZulu-Natal



iKhethelo Children's Village, formerly known as Makaphutu, is a Christian orphanage that is home to 48 children ranging in ages from one to 18 years old. It seeks to be a loving community that provides holistic care for orphaned and vulnerable children and is located in the beautiful Valley of 1000 Hills, which is about a 45 min drive from the coastal city of Durban. iKhethelo seeks to provide a family, foundation and future for the children they care for, and also to be a forerunner and example to the community around them. Redeemer missions trips to Ikhethelo started in 2012 — we've been sending teams since.

In past years, this trip focused on activities that ranged from providing business skills courses for young adults in the local community, as well as activities for the children at Ikhethelo. This past year, we had been asked to come during their Easter holiday from school. Whenever the children are home from school - it can be a huge burden on the staff and the house moms, and when children are bored, they can cause trouble. We created an on-site camp-like feel with a schedule of Bible studies, activities and field trips.

An early highlight of the trip was sharing Easter sunrise service in the outdoor amphitheater overlooking the community with everyone. Days typically started with praise time and Bible Studies. We followed up the Easter story, covering the Resurrection, the Great Commission, Pentecost, Saul's Conversion, and New Jerusalem. "My Redeemer Lives" was everyone's favorite song of the week.

Activities included competitive field day sports, tie dying t-shirts, and painting frames. The teens went bowling with the volunteers, and our special field trips were ice skating and a day at the beach in Durban. For many, it was their first time bowling and first time ice skating. Praise the Lord for safety!

While we wrapped up our trip in just 10 days, we are continuing the relationship and partnership with iKhethelo. One of the co-leaders, Amy Zhang, remained for another 9 months to teach computer skills at iKhethelo's school among many other things. Thanks to generous supporters, we were able to outfit a small computer lab. In addition, three teenagers visited New York in October as a part of a leadership trip. We are excited to send more teams in 2016. We are blessed to be a small part of iKhethelo's ministry.



We landed in KwaZulu-Natal on Good Friday and was able to spend Easter with our iKhetelo family. Easter Sunday, we led praise for a 5:30 AM sunrise service at the outdoor amphitheater overlooking the community. We introduced a few new songs... "My Redeemer Lives!" became a favorite of the week.



Nic spoke about the death and resurrection of Jesus and its significance.



Asanda, a 13-year-old translated into Zulu.



Days typically started with praise time and Bible Studies. We followed up the Easter story, covering the Resurrection, the Great Commission, Pentecost, Saul's Conversion, and New Jerusalem.



This was my class. I hadn't taught children's Bible study since college, so I was nervous to teach the youngest (ages 3-7). Tiffany and I also had two helpers, Thando (Yes! she's one of the ones who visited NY!) and Xoli, who helped us translate and teach the children.



Activities included field day, tie dye, puzzles, games, and frame-making. Thank you to our Amazon donors who made our activities happen! Bandanas, cones, tug-of-war rope... it all went to great use!



We took field trips like this one to an ice skating rink. For many, it was their first time skating! Praise the Lord for safety!



And to the beach in Durban!



Finished tie dye shirts in action!
Learn more about iKhethelo at www.ikhethelo.org