

**Special
Edition**

Impact Education

April 2007

IMPACT EDUCATION SERVICE TRIPS 2006-2007

7th Grade	Marble Falls, TX
8th Grade	Rockport, TX
Freshmen	New Orleans, LA
Sophomores	Oklahoma
Juniors	Washington D.C.
Seniors	Europe

Culture Shock Through Impact Education

IT WAS A CLASSIC CASE OF CULTURE SHOCK...

"I can't do it!" Yes you can, others have done this before you and lived!

This is how it always goes down.

You'll be okay! "No I won't." You can do it. "No I can't!"

Next time I'll make sure that I'm by the door and that I haven't put myself in the corner of the classroom with what looked like "no safe way out!" I had just announced to the class, "Remember, you will need to leave your iPods, cell phones, electronic games, and any other 'gadgets' that you use to entertain yourselves at home." You would have thought I had said, "Now class, I am going to amputate your right arms and then load you on the van with no sedatives and we'll drive 6 hours to Oklahoma and do slave labor with only bread and water to survive!"

Impact Education is an exciting 'force' at Summit Christian Academy. It makes us unique. It sets us apart from other private Christian schools. Most importantly, it changes the lives of our students.

When you put your faith into action, it changes you *and* those you serve. Moreover, once it really gets into your blood, you can't get enough of it! However, the preparation time truly is as much about preparing students to remove themselves from their everyday culture that has separated them from the "go" message in Matthew 28:19 as it is preparing them for the outreach. We want to help our students see that they can make a change in a tumultuous world. Most of them are so wound up in their teen culture that they can't even see what it's doing to them—making them apathetic to hopelessness, giving them superiority complexes, and feeding their self-centeredness like a black hole that can never be filled.

We start with the 7th graders serving to impact a local church... 8th, impacting a community... 9th, impacting through inner city work... 10th, impacting at the state level ... 11th, impacting our nation... and 12th, serving to impact internationally. Each of our Secondary classes participates in service trips – one trip per class per year! The students experience all kinds

of service – painting, cleaning, landscaping, feeding, drama, puppets, worship, storytelling, and prayer-walking – just to name a few.

DAY 1 OF TRAINING – CULTURE SHOCK SETS IN

"Mrs. G, I can't do that... I have to listen to music. I'll never get to sleep."

"I cannot ride in a van that long without something to do."

"I thought you said these trips were fun"

"You're kidding, right? I mean really, you're kidding, Mrs. G."

"My body will go into shock. I can't do it!"

I could see it happening. 97% of the class was going into 'ethnicity fright' – a more hip way of saying 'culture shock.' (Only 4 new students, but it had been a year and most of the students were just remembering how fun the last trip was... not some of the restrictions that had actually accommodated the fun.)

Impact Education exists to train a generation of students that will be prepared to lead, impact, and transform the world out of their relationship to and love for their Savior Jesus Christ.

Culture Shock Continued...

"Can't we just listen to our iPods on the way there?" No.

"Why not?" *I want you to interact with each other.*

"For 6 hours straight? I don't have that much to say!" *You'll find something to say. You can take cards.*

"Cards? You are not serious!"

Yes, I am serious. Yes, you can make it. You will be able to go to sleep. You will be able to find something to say to your classmates. Yes, I will own your iPod or cell phone or game for the duration of the trip if you bring it.

THE EXCITING THING IS... THEY DO MAKE IT

The exciting thing is they make it. They find:

- they can have fun with simple things like a deck of cards that lets them interact with more than one person at a time
- they find that the adult leaders who came with them actually have something to say and sometimes it's even smart
- they can live without talking or text messaging their friend...across the room
- they can survive without all their electronic gadgetry
- they find that there are more students in their class than they thought
- they find when it's almost over, they are already talking about next year's trip

However, most importantly, they find that they have actually become intimately engaged with the greatest servant of all, Jesus Christ! They find that serving doesn't necessarily mean that God will call you to go to a foreign country and never be able to eat at McDonalds again. Serving means making your talents available to bless someone without expecting anything in return. Serving means getting out of your comfort zone to bring com-

fort to someone else. Serving means getting dirty and having fun. Serving means doing something you've never done before for someone that may or may not appreciate it. Serving means doing everything as unto God so that He receives glory in and through your actions.

After 2 days of working outside in the cold wind painting and one day of picking up trash in ditches... again in the cold, Ariel, a 10th grade student, said, "I get it, I finally get it – what it means to be a living sacrifice. I am so excited! I really get it!"

Then Jordan said, "I have never experienced a mission trip or anything like it prior to the Oklahoma trip. I went into the experience expecting it to be tedious work, and I was just to go along with it to make everybody happy. I found out it was much more than that. As we began painting the house, it was just as I had expected it to be, but when the children or superintendent came outside, I really saw how much our efforts meant to them. I felt strong fellowship in completing this one goal that would help somebody in some way. When the house was complete, I felt a strong sense of gratification as well as accomplishment, all for a better cause that was bigger and stronger than we were. It was a pleasure being able to take part in an outreach in something as small as painting a house and helping those in need. I know my faith has greatly improved."

"I get it, I finally get it— what it means to be a living sacrifice. I am so excited! I really get it!"

After last year's trips many students told me, "one trip isn't enough Mrs. G... we need more." That's when you think... it is working. It is getting into their blood. Serving is becoming a lifestyle. When they graduate they will have a desire to make an impact whenever they can, wherever they are and for whomever God puts in their path!

Therefore, we're working on more than one trip per class! A team of students is coming up with service 'blessing' projects that they can do in a day or over a weekend. Student leaders are coming out of the 11th and 12th grades to go on the 7th – 9th grade trips and to help lead, encourage, and disciple the younger students. We have a 'movement' happening! We are going to advance on a godless culture and we are going to be agents of change!

One parent said to me, "I can't believe our High School student has this opportunity! I wish I could have done something like this in high school." I say, "You think this is cool? You should see what we do in the Elementary!" Stay tuned... J

-- Ginger Lambert
Impact Education Director

