

# lives changing.

STUDENT MISSIONS  
AT SOUTHERN

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## Pray and It'll Be OK

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by Marceline Ndahayo, serving in Peru

Sabbaths here in Peru are extremely different from Sabbaths back at my home. Sabbaths at home (as you probably have experienced yourself) usually consist of waking up, going to church, having lunch, and a chill afternoon Sabbath activity—either before or after a Sabbath nap. Sabbaths as a missionary consist of waking up, going to church, having lunch, and then going back to church for another church service that ends around 6 p.m. By the time Sabbath is over in Peru, I am completely exhausted.

Since my first week here, I have gotten pretty used to my Sabbath schedule. I know that the walk to and from church is either really dusty or really muddy, so the right shoes are a necessity. I know that it gets extremely hot during the afternoon, so bringing my water bottle and my fan is also very important. For some reason though, last week I was not in the mood. The day seemed even longer because instead of leaving to attend the second church service later in the afternoon, my church partner, Zach, and I had to leave at 2 p.m. to make house visits.

That meant we both gobbled up our lunch and headed back to the church much earlier than usual. It was an extremely hot day (one of the hottest I've experienced here), and I had a massive headache. When I reached the first house, I really

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Marceline shares a hug with two of the locals. She does medical work and outreach with our partner organization, AMOR projects in Pucallpa, Peru.

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FAITH. SURRENDER. JOURNEY. PURPOSE. JOY.



# Letter from the Director



We welcome Christian Bunch, our new program director. He previously served as a student missionary in India.

This past summer I had the privilege of joining the staff at Southern to serve as Student Missions director.

Although we have probably never met, I am extraordinarily grateful to you for your support of our Student Missions program. I served as a Student Missionary (SM) in India through this program, which likely would not have been possible without the prayerful support of donors like yourself. I know firsthand the incredible impact that service can have on a person's life, which is why I am so grateful to now facilitate similar opportunities for other students.

As many of you know, being an SM is not always easy, but it never ceases to be incredibly transformative. Almost daily we hear stories from students in the field whose lives have been changed as well as stories of others whose lives have been changed as a result of student missionaries from Southern. It is with this in mind that we chose to title this year's campaign "Lives Changing." There is something intrinsic to missions that changes who we are at the core, and since 1967 thousands of students from Southern have experienced it. Fifty years of Student Missions is certainly a milestone to celebrate, but we're just getting started.

We invite you to join us in the mission to see **lives changing** around the world until Jesus comes to take us home. There are still billions of people who need to know Jesus, and thousands of students who need to know the joy of serving Him. We firmly believe that there is no prayer too short or donation too small to make an eternal difference for the kingdom of God. Thank you for your past, present, and future support of our program! Lives are changing as a direct result.

Christian Bunch  
Student Missions Director  
423.236.2442

## Student Missionary Alumnus Dale Walters, '81

Dale Walters, class of '81, is an auto mechanics professor in the Technology Department at Southern. He went as a Student Missionary to Nicaragua in 1977 and shares his story about that experience here:

*It was a pretty big deal back then, because not only did I go as a Student Missionary but I also went to the mission station that students from Southern had started in Nicaragua. So this was to a mission station created and operated by students. No other SMs had done anything like this. I was twenty at the time. Nurses operated the clinic, and student nurses assisted. We had a maintenance guy on the team, and that was my initial role. I actually ended up running the mission myself for four or five months because the director had to leave.*

*That mission is still operating today. Daniel Coon, one of our automotive majors and my former student, is there this year. It's absolutely crucial to have someone on staff to keep the vehicles running and the buildings maintained. The current elementary school at the mission has 140 kids in kindergarten through fourth grade, and a new grade is added each year. The entire mission is funded purely by private donations.*

*During your mission year, you see things happen that don't completely make sense. You end up doing things as a student missionary that you probably wouldn't do [in America]. I've learned that if you give a young person responsibility, usually they will rise to the occasion and fulfill it.*

**“If you give a young person responsibility ... they will rise to the occasion and fulfill it.”**

*The Student Missions program here at Southern helps you stay focused on the fact that we need to help others. It gets you out of your comfort zone as you realize how blessed and privileged you are and also that [material] things don't make you happy.*



*You build friendships with the people [in other countries]. There are people in Nicaragua that I am still friends with. That's one of those things that transcends ethnicities, nationalities ... or just people. 🌱*

If you have stories from your Southern student missionary experience, we'd love to hear them! Email your story to [studentmissions@southern.edu](mailto:studentmissions@southern.edu)



# Pray and It'll Be OK continued from page one

did not feel like talking, nonetheless in Spanish. For the most part, I just sat and "listened." As I was walking to the second house, I remember thinking, "What would they do if I just told them that I had a headache? Would they let me take a motorcar and leave?" I was on the verge of opening my mouth to ask my companions if I could go home; instead, something in my heart told me to chill out and pray.

As we walked to the next house, I said a short little prayer in my head, asking God to simply take away my bad attitude in order for Him to work through me. At that house, I ended up having an extraordinary conversation with the family that lived there. We talked for about 20 minutes, and the conversation flowed perfectly. As we left I remember feeling genuinely happy to have met them all, and then it hit me: these people had been able to understand each word that I spoke to them. Every single one! And I also understood every single word that they said to me. And it wasn't a short, three-minute conversation. In fact, I was doing most of the talking. God was working through me, just like I had prayed!

**"... then it hit me: these people had been able to understand each word I spoke to them. Every single one."**

After we walked back to the church, I told Zach about my experience with the visits (he and I were in two different groups). I told him how amazing it was to communicate perfectly even though I had a headache. That's when I realized that my head hadn't been hurting at all while I was talking to the family. During that conversation, I didn't even notice the pain. This instant answer to my little prayer reminded me that regardless of the situation, I can always call on God.

I'm sharing this experience with you because it taught me the importance of giving God my all, even with things that might seem trivial. I know there will certainly be days when I am tired and not in the mood to work, but I must remember that I was sent here for this very reason. I was called to serve. 🌍



**1** Marceline (right) helps out with church services along with other student missionaries.

**2** In many cultures, fellowship between church members on Sabbath can last all day.

## student missions BY THE NUMBERS

**87%**

Part of gifts used directly for student missionaries' expenses

**\$3,400**

Average cost to send out a student missionary in Southern's program

**16** TIME ZONES

**22** COUNTRIES

**30** PROJECTS

**13%**

Balance of donations that helps recruit students, find new locations for service, and process volunteers

**60** NUMBER OF STUDENT MISSIONARIES THIS YEAR

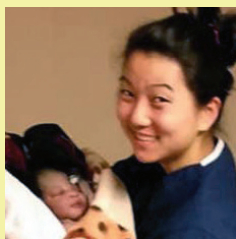
**\$50,000**

Amount in the endowment Student Missions initiated last year



# impact ZAMBIA

Zambia is located in Southern Africa and is slightly larger than Texas. It has a tropical climate and one of the highest levels of urbanization in the country. Nearly sixteen million people call Zambia home.



### Samantha Yoon

is serving as a nurse at Riverside Farms Institute. She recently ran the clinic for a full day by herself!



### Britani Brown

is a teacher at Mansa Fordina Pandelli School. She has taken the initiative to start a library at the school.



### Chelsea Campbell

is serving as a nurse at Mwami Adventist Hospital. She recently assisted with a cesarean-section birth.

## Student Missions

### WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

- As a new school year started in August, Student Missionaries (SMs) flew around the world to begin their service.
- In September, last year's returned SMs met for a Re-entry Retreat in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This annual event helps students transition back into U.S. culture.
- In October, we hosted our annual Student Missions Emphasis Week. Returned SMs helped with a booth on the campus promenade.
- Student Missions Vespers was held on November 3. Many of our SM alumni marched with current students during a colorful flag processional in the campus church.
- On November 5, returned SMs joined hundreds of others from the Southern family during Homecoming Weekend to pack meals with the organization Feed My Starving Children.



1 During Student Missions Emphasis Week, "safari" rides were offered.

2 SM volunteers participate in a campus-wide service event.

Please consider supporting our mission to change lives by giving a gift at [southern.edu/givemissions](http://southern.edu/givemissions)