



33 Students Minister in New Orleans & Georgia During 2008 Spring Break

Thirty-three DBU students took a break from the grind of school and worked on their tans by building homes this Spring Break. Some traveled to Columbus, Georgia, to take part in Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge Week. Others headed to New Orleans, where DBU students had helped in building and cleaning up two years before.

Although over two years have passed since the Hurricane Katrina disaster, many of the residents of New Orleans are still picking up the pieces of their lives. Members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Fred Luter, have been busy working to rebuild both their community and their house of worship. In the spring of 2006, DBU students headed to New Orleans to help in the early stages of the clean-up effort. Led in part by Rev. Luter's son, Chip Luter, who is now a DBU alumnus, DBU students cleared debris and tore down condemned houses in order to make way for new construction.

This Spring Break, 14 students rejoined the members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church and helped complete work on houses and the renovated church building. They built fences, planted grass, demolished walls, moved furniture, picked up trash, repaired porches, painted, and did anything else that was needed to help continue the journey back to normal.

One special moment during the week came as the students gathered together with members of Franklin Avenue for a 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship service held at First Baptist Church of New Orleans. First Baptist has provided their facilities for Franklin Avenue throughout their time of transition. The service was one of the last at First Baptist, and Franklin Avenue returned home on Sunday, April 6. During the week, students had the chance to help ensure that the

April 6 "homecoming" would occur as scheduled, putting many of the needed finishing touches on the church's worship center.

"The people at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church were very hopeful for the city of New Orleans," shared DBU sophomore Ben King from Celina, Texas. "Their spirits were high while we worshiped with them as they looked forward to the return to their church building after two and a half years."

While some students spent time in New Orleans, 19 others continued further east toward Columbus, Georgia. Habitat for Humanity was holding one of its annual Collegiate Challenge Weeks in the city, and students from 10 different universities

came to build 10 houses, all within five days. An annual tradition, DBU students have been taking part in Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Mission Trips for nearly 20 years, building houses in South Dakota, New York, Connecticut, South Carolina, New Mexico, Mississippi, and Florida.

Waking up at the crack of dawn, the students took to the houses, pouring foundations, building walls, shingling roofs, all the while interacting with students from places such as Ferris State University, Syracuse,

Ithaca, and the University of Kentucky.

"Going on a mission trip has always been a part of something I love to do," said DBU freshman Misty Cotton from Wolfforth, Texas. "However, going to Columbus was a new experience for me. Instead of sharing the gospel with them directly, I was able to help provide a home for a family who might not have had one otherwise. This experience reminded me of the importance of putting your faith into practice and allowing our hands and feet to be used by Christ."



Nineteen DBU students traveled to Columbus, Georgia, to participate in a Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge event. The group completed construction on this house in the span of five days.