

국가보훈처는 극동 PATRIOTS IN THE FAR EAST

DBU's Basketball and Cheerleading Teams traveled to South Korea, playing games, running camps, and ministering with Korean Christians

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DBU Basketball player

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DBU Basketball coach

Spiritual rejuvenation is not always the same as physical relaxation. Just ask the DBU Men's Basketball Team and Patriot Cheerleading Team, who spent their fall break ministering on the other side of the world in 2009. Joined by DBU students, coaches, trainers, and staff, the group of 42 traveled to Seoul, South Korea, overcoming jet lag, a foreign diet, and long days to provide service to children and homeless individuals of a distant land.

This trip to South Korea was planned by Ryan Erwin, DBU Director of Athletics, and others at DBU as a part of the Global Sports Mission Initiative. The student-athletes served and shared their faith in Christ as they used their God-given talents to minister and spread the Word among the people of South Korea.

Rising early each morning, the group traveled the city, experiencing the bustling urban life of Seoul and ministering along the way. Sports clinics provided Patriot Basketball players and cheerleaders many opportunities to share their athletic knowledge and prowess and—most importantly—their testimonies of God's grace and love with children of all ages.

"It was truly amazing," shared DBU Basketball player Braxton Adamson, "to be able to teach these young students the fundamentals of basketball, while sharing the love of Christ."

The DBU student-athletes, who received significant fanfare from their young observers, joyfully gave autographs to their supporters and approached them in their very personal and friendly way. The Patriot Cheerleaders worked diligently to teach special cheers for their students and invited them to join them in performing at the basketball games DBU played during their stay in South Korea.

"I was so proud of the girls that week," reflected DBU former Head Cheer Coach Skyla Teat. "They were able to bless hundreds of lives through their teaching, while also providing a great service for these schools."

Along their journey throughout Seoul, the group also embraced the homeless. An afternoon spent at Seoul Station saw them deliver meals and engage in a very memorable time of fellowship and prayer.

"Despite the language barrier, I was able to see God work through prayer with the homeless people," said former DBU Cheerleader—now Head Cheer Coach—Michelle Grose. "The Holy Spirit was faithful to intercede during prayer when we ministered to the homeless. It was very evident that they experienced the love of God."



DBU Basketball player, Justin Pinkney, helps in drills at a basketball camp held for children in South Korea.

DBU Cheerleaders Cami Duke and Michelle Grose help in a cheer camp for South Korean girls, sponsored by the DBU Patriot Cheerleading Team.



Let your light shine

Aside from their ministry efforts, the Patriots enjoyed spiritual rejuvenation in the company of fellow believers. The Men's Basketball Team and Cheerleading Squad attended services at Wonchon Baptist Church and Suwon Central Baptist Church. They also had the pleasure and distinct privilege of hearing a sermon presented by the renowned Dr. Billy Kim, former pastor of Suwon Central Baptist Church and past president of the Baptist World Alliance, as well as former head of the Far East Broadcasting Company. The group had the opportunity to tour the facilities of the Far East Broadcast Company, which airs Christian music and sermons throughout the Eastern Hemisphere.

"Grateful for our commitment to make this journey, the Koreans in turn inspired us by their passion for Christ," explained DBU Head Basketball Coach Blake Flickner. "All over South Korea, thousands of believers go to early morning prayer services six days a week. The churches are full, and their enthusiasm was contagious."

Along with their mission work, the DBU Men's Basketball Team performed well in their three official games during the week. Following friendly pre-game exchanges of cultural gifts and pleasantries, the Patriots took on two of Korea's premier institutions, Kyung Hee University and Chung-Ang University. Battling hard, the Patriots fell to the Korean universities in both contests.

Their final game on the trip pitted the Dallas Baptist Patriots against American Patriots as the team competed with an all-star squad from the OSAN United States Air Force Base. Battling to the end, DBU secured the victory.

"Our trip to Seoul was an incredible opportunity," said Coach Flickner. "We thoroughly enjoyed playing the various teams, and we learned several things that will make us better moving forward."

"However, basketball was a very small part of our experience," Flickner admitted. "The trip was memorable because of the fellowship and worship we were able to enjoy with believers from half-way around the world. The clinics we held provided a great opportunity for our players to share their testimonies and to be a witness to the next generation of young people in South Korea. I was very proud of our student-athletes and the love they were able to show to these kids. I know that we have grown tremendously through the experience."

*Written by
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The Patriot Men's Basketball Team—pictured with the Chung-Ang University Men's Basketball Team