

# STUDENTS serve in SUN & SNOW



From a warm, sunny beach in South Padre Island, Texas, to the snowy, frozen fields of Des Moines, Iowa, 35 students from Dallas Baptist University spent their Spring Break serving and sharing the Gospel.

One group of 24 DBU students, led by Chris Holloway, director of global missions, and Emily Hopmann, Baptist Student Ministry director, participated in Beach Reach which brought more than 750 students from Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) across Texas to South Padre Island. The Beach Reach students offered van rides each night to provide safe, alternative transportation and also served pancake breakfasts and shared the Lord's love with those they encountered.

Junior Catie Lavelle, a psychology major from Denton, TX, served with Beach Reach for the first time and found the experience both challenging and rewarding. She shared, "I saw the Lord move through the simple, but powerful way we would bring up His name in conversation. I was able to see the Lord stir in our passenger's hearts while we were driving to the clubs, and when we would arrive, they wouldn't want to get off the van because they were open, hungry, and interested in the life giving words we were speaking."

Team leader Chris Holloway likewise stated, "Our ultimate desire is that Beach Reach would not just be an experience, but that we as Christ-followers will see the need for the Gospel in all of our settings and that we will faithfully share it and trust the Lord for transformation."

During the same week, 11 DBU students worked in Des Moines, Iowa, with Habitat for Humanity on home building and repair projects. Cold temperatures and snow provided a challenging working environment, but the team rallied together to work on three houses over five days.

The first home that they assisted with was built in the early 1900s, and the home owner was a retired Vietnam veteran. While working on repairs, the students had the opportunity to visit with the family and pray for their needs. Whitney Cooper, trip sponsor and assistant director of spiritual life at DBU, shared, "through the week, our students were able to see that the work they were doing was for a real family with legitimate needs and that they were making a difference."

The team worked on two homes for Des Moines residents the rest of the week, one new structure and one being rebuilt. Team members painted, built stairs, and did a variety of projects.

"It was great to continually be reminded that with each pound of a hammer, each cold day, each house worked on, was used for the Kingdom of God in some

way," said sophomore Emily Stunkard, a Christian studies major from Tyler, TX.

While the two trips were quite different, they both gave DBU students the opportunity to share God's love with others and practice hands-on servant leadership.

After the week, "Our students and our team leaders are not the same," Holloway concluded. "I pray we will continue to be faithful in what God has taught us."

