

July Teams

**Cambodia | Tanzania | South Africa Resource | South Africa East | Dominican Republic  
Thailand | Peru | USA-Alaska | USA-Camden | India Compassionate Hands | Japan | China**

Dominican Republic

**PTL for new realizations** - "I have more high moments than I can recall. One of the greatest ones (which consisted of various times) was realizing how present and intertwined God is in my life. Seeing Him care for me and the team in this, seeing Him give me strength and comfort and healing, really showed me how great God's love is for me and the team!"



South Africa – Resourced

**PTL for coming full circle** – "In the last weeks since I have written, God's fingerprints have firmly been stamped all over our collective lives as the South Africa Resource Team. His hand has so clearly guided the transformation that is occurring within my heart, our team, and on into Mpophomeni. He has been winding His thread through our journeys for nearly 8 months now since the dream began. He has been with us walking alongside us in the spiritual and relational valleys, winding/confusing paths I/we have experienced. Often in times like these it is difficult to see Him and understand His plan. On rare occasions, it seems, God provides hilltop realizations/experiences. Opportunities to look back on the slope that lay behind, and fully recognize where God has been in it all. God has known all along the path we have wandered down as a team. It is a path that for nearly a month, winded unnecessarily, as we floundered about on our own. It is evident in reflecting on our preparation as a team, just how American and individualistic we were/are. This realization also allows me to understand a bit more of my struggle through this past year. I feel as though with each passing day in America, a part of Themba was lost. Themba meaning

HOPE in Zulu, was one of the names I was dubbed by my closest friends here, namely Zwe and Khanyi. The concept of myself as Themba, became a symbol of experiencing the fullness of God's love, life and joy. Slowly I began to lose sight of who God created me to be. I began to allow myself to be defined by other things beside Christ. I continually drifted and searched to no avail, for how I could continue on as Themba in America. As a result, I approached this summer and trip much less as a team and much more from the perspective of individuals, each with different personal expectations of our time in Mpophomeni. Each desiring the fullness that God offered and provided in various ways our previous time, but none knowing how to reach this intimacy and community. As I reflect on what God has done, I realize how He took my expectations of further community development/ministry experience, and molded it to His desires of what He intended to teach me."

Peru

**PTL for seeing practical changes**—"So this past week, we have been helping our host to put on sex abuse classes for the local kids. We have been helping them to learn about their own bodies, as well as those of the opposite sex. Primarily however, using the acronym P.A.R.E. (S.T.O.P. in Spanish through a song and curriculum). We have been teaching the kids about good touching and bad touching from others, and how to understand what to do when someone is trying to take advantage of them. We do this because 1 in 3 girls, and 1 in 6 boys, have been sexually violated in some way by the age of fifteen. Through using P.A.R.E., we hope to begin to change the sex abuse, as parents are also educated through the curriculum. So far, the kids have memorized the acronym, and been given a practical way to apply the teaching of the missionaries. It feels great to be a part of a tangible change in the community, and we have all been blessed to be a part of it. Please pray for this issue in the city of Pucallpa though, as it is still very serious. God is definitely good, and He has been teaching us all a lot about this amazing place."



## India Compassionate Hands

**PTL for seeing value** – “At one point, I picked up one of the girls as she attempted to make an escape. She kicked and struggled for a minute, but then her little body sagged against me and her eyes closed. Before I knew it, she was sleeping soundly, worn out from her small act of rebellion. As I held her in my arms, an overpowering feeling of tenderness and protectiveness overtook my heart. Her face, so mischievous in wakefulness, was so sweet and peaceful in sleep- long eyelashes resting against round cheeks, mouth slightly open, stubborn lines erased from around her eyebrows and forehead. I stroked her dark curly hair and whispered blessings over her life, whispered to her about how she is loved and valued and precious to God. I have been told that women weep here when they give birth to daughters, fearing for their lives and their children’s lives if a son is not born. It is said so matter-of-factly: “daughters are not wanted.” So I prayed for the girl in my arms and all of the other girls in the world who are thought of as less valuable, that they would come to know a God who loves them for their hearts and souls and not for their gender. The God who made them perfectly. No mistakes.”



## Japan

**PTL for singing and dancing** – “B Camp began on Monday and ended on Friday, and albeit the language barrier was definitely more substantial, God created plenty of divine appointments throughout camp. We assisted the staff whenever possible, and continued to do what we did at the previous camps by having our missionary sharing time during evening sessions and leading organized games. The team was able to show love to the campers, and I noticed that many of the female campers became quite attached to our girls even after one day. While we still had limited verbal interactions with the 20 campers, we’d be creative in using our broken Japanese and English, and had fun with them during the several activities planned throughout the day. I was personally encouraged by the way our team has been studying Japanese in their free time and being so invested in the students as much as possible. We also entrusted the hearts of the campers to the Japanese staff who were able to pour into their lives the truth of the Gospel. I was humbled when two days ago, one of the guys in my cabin, Aoto, one of a few non-Christians at the camp, shared that he became a Christian after praying with the cabin counselor. It made me rejoice in my heart, and our entire cabin danced and sang in our cabin praising God with Japanese worship songs for what He has done. Easily the highlight of my week, God has been working in great ways!”



## Cambodia

**PTL for new friends** – “Another friend that I made works in the Old Market. There you can barter and get all kinds of great Cambodian attire, paintings, and jewelry for very cheap. I got to know her from purchasing some bags from her. I love returning to her every time I go and talking about her culture and what she believes. She also asks questions about “my country.” Here’s what I realized: Cambodians do not separate their culture from their religion. When I asked to learn about “Cambodian god,” she began to tell me about times with her family and things they do together. She told me about celebrations and rituals and how she lives her daily life. It was difficult to explain to her that not everyone in America is Christian. I thought about it... and well, I feel like Cambodia



just might be one step ahead in faith integration. Of course their faith isn't in Jesus, but I can't help but think how short I fall personally in integrating God in every aspect of my life. What does Christian culture even look like? Maybe I'll know when I begin by telling someone about Christianity by how I live more than the words I say. I've been taught this concept many times - to not be of the world - but I feel now more than ever I have a deeper understanding of what that might actually look like."

### **Tanzania**

**PTL for needing nothing** - "Over the course of two months we distributed food at a leper colony, taught at a primary and secondary school, dug latrine holes, built a medical clinic, distributed water filters and lived amongst the Tanzanian people. We enjoyed living



life with them and most importantly loving them. During the last two weeks we focused on distributing water filters to the Nkungi people teaching them the importance of them and how they are used. On a Tuesday we installed 5 water filters in one day. We were on our last home of the day and we taught them the whole process of the filtration system and the last part was a questionnaire we have them fill out. On the questionnaire there are questions such as: How many members are in your family and living in your home? What is your occupation? How far are you from a water pump? One of the last questions is: What are your family's needs? The typical answer that we got from the families was chicken wire, mosquito nets, food and clean water. However, this man gave us an answer that we did not expect. He simply said, "Nothing." This man and his family lived in a brick home, which he built himself, no

electricity or much of anything and he was happy. This was a major reality check for all of us. It was amazing for us to experience this contentment first hand seeing what the man had and he did not have any needs. When we look at something and feel like we need it, we will always look back and remember this man and his family and reevaluate what is actually a "need" in our lives."

**OWM Site Visit – Peru/Dominican Republic – PTL for a time of blessing** – "My time spent in Peru and the Dominican Republic can be summed up as a time of blessing. In Peru I got to join in with the team's preparations the upcoming boys and girls clubs and start on the construction of a new playground of the kids. To watch our team prepare intentional and interactive lessons for the children that they had grown so close to in the past few weeks touched my heart! In the DR our team was blessing our hosts by helping at the construction site of their new team house and discipleship center. The biggest blessing of this trip though was to watch our sister in Christ proclaim her faith by being baptized in a local river, surrounded by her family, church family and local onlookers, this believer truly made a public proclamation of her faith! Being with our amazing host and seeing firsthand the day-to-day work they do for the Kingdom was the biggest blessing of my summer. To watch these missionaries and church members love and care for their communities was the greatest honor. I praise the Lord for their willing hearts for discipleship to not only the communities they live in, but also to our teams. We are beyond blessed with God fearing and God honoring men and women who host our teams. They truly show our teams what it means to be servants of the gospel."

### **August Teams**

**South Africa Resource | South Africa East | USA Camden | Japan | Japan Relief | Haiti School of Nursing**

**LOOK OUT FOR PTL AUGUST REPORT, COMING SOON!**

Check out our team's prayer cards here: <http://www.apu.edu/iom/owm/trips/2011/>

If you would like to donate, you can do so here: [www.apualumni.com/owmgive](http://www.apualumni.com/owmgive)