

UBUNTU

"A universal truth, a way of life that underpins the concept of an open society. Respect, helpfulness, sharing, community, caring, trust, unselfishness. One word can mean so much--this is the spirit of Ubuntu."

—Nelson Mandela

D U R B A N , S O U T H A F R I C A

UBUNTU

This month the South African Campus Crusade staff held a National Student conference for the first time since 2005, where students could come and be equipped to reach their campuses with the Good News of the Gospel. The conference was an incredibly encouraging opportunity to see the hearts of students who desire to take a stand and make a difference as the much-needed future leaders of this country.

The Ubuntu National Student Conference of South Africa was more than a conference. It was a life-changing experience and the effects of that are playing out in many different ways now weeks later. Students came from Durban, Cape Town, Pretoria, and Johannesburg, as well as other cities. The group that attended the conference represented South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jamaica, Ethiopia, and the U.S.

"Students who know their God"

The theme of the Ubuntu Conference was centered around students who have an eager heart to "know their God, stand firm, and take action." The theme was taken from Daniel 11:32(b): *"but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."* Throughout the weekend, several speakers, instructors, and workshop facilitators did an incredible job addressing various topics associated with the theme.

Not only was the weekend an excellent opportunity for Biblical instruction and encouragement, it also provided a unique opportunity for students on campuses all over South Africa to fellowship and share the joy they have discovered in serving Christ. The coffee hour the first evening was an excellent opportunity to break the ice and allow everyone to get to know each other. That fellowship was built upon as we attended

willing to "stand firm and take action" and who were willing to be the workers about whom Christ was speaking. These students were burdened for their fellow classmates and were excited about their calling to share with them the greatest gift that one can receive in a personal relationship with their Savior Jesus Christ.

After having learned so much over the course of the talks and seminars Friday and Saturday, we partnered with Mamelodi Baptist Church in one of the nearby townships. With the chant "It's HARVEST time!" on our minds, students and staff alike, along with the church's youth, went door-to-door sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Due to several complications our outreach was cut from almost three hours to barely one. However, the Lord still showed up in an unbelievable way! In only an hour, 111 people heard about the love of Jesus Christ, and 59 trusted Him as their Lord and Savior! It was so exciting to be a vessel through which He is doing a great work here in South Africa and all the glory belongs to Him!



Student and staff participants at the Ubuntu National Student Conference

seminars together, played rugby and soccer, and worshiped the living God along side one another.

"It's HARVEST time!"

In Luke 10:2 Christ says, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."* The highlight of the conference for me was in seeing students who were

Please be praying for the various students as they are back on their campuses. Pray that they would continue to experience Christ daily and that they would feel burdened to share Him with others. Pray particularly for our students, at the Westville and Howard campuses of UKZN as we are trusting the Lord to use them to be the light on both of their campuses in this great city!

SMART CHOICES

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES
WITH HOPE | LIFE | TRUTH

"If I already know that I am HIV positive, what must I do?" "Is there any hope for me?" "I don't want to keep having sex, but I feel like I have to do it to fit in." "Do my friends have a right to run away from me if they know that I have HIV?" "Where can I be tested?"

These are some of the anonymous questions that 9th and 10th graders submitted during a recent workshop our team hosted in one of the local township schools. The **Smart Choices** workshop is designed to help combat the HIV epidemic by educating adolescents and young adults about choices and their consequences. Through the **Smart Choices** curriculum, we challenged the students to consider the choices they make regarding their sexuality and how those choices will affect the dreams they have for their life.



This is me teaching a section of the curriculum to the students at Phembisizwe High School.

As we shared with the students about the HIV infection and its transmission, we also shared with them that they are unique, valuable, and deeply loved. **Smart Choices** aims not only to encourage adolescents to consider the choices they make, but it also aims to introduce those students to the unconditional love of Christ that has the power to transform both their lives here on earth and their eternity.

The township of Ntuzuma, the largest township in Durban, has over 500,000 people living within its informal settlement. Tragically, among those half-million men, women, and children, the HIV/AIDS infection rate is greater than **50 percent**. The province of KwaZulu-Natal in which Durban is located, has the highest HIV/AIDS infection rate in the world. In one settlement, about an hour outside of Durban, more than **80 percent** of people are infected.



Smart Choices staff and student participants Phembisizwe High School-March 23-25, 2010

It is of dire importance that the youth of this country commit to abstinence before marriage and faithfulness in marriage as the Lord has designed. Whole villages are literally dying because they are not willing to abstain from multiple-partner sexual relationships.

The burden on our hearts for those 14 and 15 year old children was so great that we worked with a local clinic to allow everyone in the school to be tested at the end of the week. ARV's (Anti-retroviral drugs) help to combat the destructive power of HIV/AIDS, but they can only be administered to someone who has been confirmed *positive*. Please pray for the youth of this nation. Pray that the Lord would give them the strength, through a personal relationship with Him, to commit to purity until marriage. Pray that He would restore a sense of healing and wholeness to a country

that has been ravaged by this terrible disease. Pray for His overwhelming sense of peace that transcends all understanding for His children here in South Africa.

DRAKENSBERG MOUNTAINS

After three months of virtually non-stop ministry, it was time for a little R&R. Katie and I planned a surprise get-away for the team that turned out to be just what the doctor had ordered!

The beautiful Drakensberg Mountains are only one of the reasons that South Africa is listed among the most beautiful countries in the world. The weekend before Easter, we were fortunate to have a couple in our church offer their mountain cabin to us for the equivalent of less than ten dollars per person per night. It was an incredible get away that provided time for us to rest and recharge as we head into the final 6 weeks on campus before the break for the World Cup. Our team enjoyed spending time with the Lord and with each other. I consider it a great blessing that our team enjoys each others' company so much. As you can see in the picture below, the scenery is beautiful and it serves as a reminder of the beauty of our Lord and Savior. I pray that you would experience His love and beauty as you encounter Him daily. In Christ,

Barrett



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Renewed energy for our students as they return to campus after such an incredible conference
- Continued unity and fellowship among our team
- A passion for the Lord to drive all that I do

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