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Office of University Communications

October 15, 2012

New Mission Trips Announced for 2012-2013

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb is a world in its own. Nestled among the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it reflects the values of faith, service and leadership demonstrated within a close-knit community. These qualities remain apparent particularly when university representatives travel beyond the mountains and overseas. This year, students will have eight opportunities to experience global missions from the states to countries as far as India and Brazil.

“We’re seeking Biblical symmetry,” said Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister at Gardner-Webb. “To achieve this, some need to be challenged to spread the Gospel orally while others need to be challenged to extend a hand of compassion,” he said. “Our goal is for our students to do both.”

GWU is already on the right track to reach this symmetry, and has been for years through its mission programs. This year, the University’s Christian Life and Service division will sponsor eight more trips where students can grow and experience God and humanity in a different light.

The trips will be offered from October to May, and will include countries such as Guatemala, Belize, Ecuador, Brazil, and India. Groups can even make a difference within the U.S. by traveling to other towns in North Carolina as well as in Pennsylvania and Hawaii.

The first trip will set out to Red Springs, N.C. this fall break, from Oct. 19-23. The team will be led by Rebekah Stanford and is being sponsored by N.C. Baptist Men. Students will be able to help through disaster relief, construction, camps, vacation Bible school, and more.

Spring missions will offer similar experiences. Starting March 8 and lasting through the 16th, four teams will travel to Pennsylvania, Guatemala, Belize, and Ecuador to work on projects such as youth ministry, construction and maintenance, and outdoors and sports camps. Those who travel to Guatemala, a fifth time trip for Gardner-Webb, will get to live in an orphanage and help with daily operations including crafts and puppet performances.

“When a team visits and helps those in need, it helps a lot,” said Neal Payne, associate minister for the University and leader of the Ecuador trip. Those who travel with Payne will live in a retreat center that facilitates a deeper relationship with Christ through nature and outdoor adventure.

Summer trips will include Brazil, Hawaii, and India, leaving on May 14, 20, and 27, respectively. The Hawaii and India missions will be health oriented and generally geared towards students focusing in medicinal fields, but will be open to all. Brazil will offer another opportunity to help an orphanage, one run by the parents of Gardner-Webb junior, Matt Anderson.

Costs of the trips vary, with the least expensive being in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, both under \$1,000. All spring and summer trips require a \$200 deposit in advance with an average at about \$2,000. Checks should be made payable to Gardner-Webb University. Applications and forms must also be filled out ahead of time and can be found in the Office of Christian Life and Service.

“We wanted to offer our students a variety of options this year,” said Teresa Davis, administrative assistant to the Office of Christian Life and Service. She hopes that students will take advantage of these great opportunities. For more information contact Davis at tdavis@gardner-webb.edu or (704) 406-4277.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University provides exceptional educational opportunities within a Christian environment, preparing students to think critically, succeed professionally, and serve faithfully as members of their local and global communities.

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