

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RETREATS

By: Vivake Baranwal & Lisa Scott

Over 80 men from Ohio State and 350 total students from 10 universities (including 2 new church plants!) gathered together for our H2O Network Men's retreat, also known as Man Makers. This is one of the few events we do together as a network, and students get to see that they are part of a movement of churches that are reaching the next generation on college campuses across the country. It's amazing to think that just a decade ago, most of these 10 churches did not exist. But this men's retreat was a great picture of God's Kingdom expanding far beyond our own campus.

Besides the copious amounts of junk food and late-night shenanigans, the retreat included powerful teachings from God's Word, spaces to debrief and confess sin to one another, and equipping for spreading the Gospel and making disciples of Jesus. The retreat also offered several workshops for students to attend. Topics covered in the workshops included how to read the Bible, living a Great Commission lifestyle after college, loving and engaging the LGBTQ community, managing finances, and many more. It was powerful to be in a room filled with college men who chose to devote a weekend to worshipping the Lord and learning how to orient their lives more deeply around Jesus. ■

In February we hosted a women's weekend along with nine other H2O churches for over 450 students from our respective campuses. We gathered in Dayton, OH to discover how we can go deeper in our faith with the Lord. The lovely Dr. Tammy Smith from Vista Community Church was our main speaker. She spoke about the deep thirst we all have inside of us that we are looking to fill. She helped us unpack the earthly things we look for to fill this thirst, and reminded us what it looks like to walk in the truth and satisfaction of being filled by Christ alone. During the retreat we also offered over ten different workshops ranging in topics from how to study God's Word, how to engage with the Lord in pursuing emotional health and how to approach healthy dating relationships. These workshops seemed to be really fruitful spaces to push the women to grow in maturity in the Lord. We were really thankful for the opportunity to be partnered up with the other churches in the H2O network, and to see all these young women take steps of faith to give up their weekend to meet together and engage their hearts with the Lord. ■

CONTENT

RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS	1
MISSIONS UPDATE	1
CITY SISTERHOOD	2
SPRING BREAK TRIPS	2



MISSIONS AT H2O CHURCH

By: Mike Malone

One of my roles at H2O is to mobilize students to make disciples of all nations. Our dream is that everyone at H2O would be a "goer" or a "sender." A "goer" is someone who crosses cultural barriers to make disciples of all nations and a "sender" is someone who commits their time, resources and talents to equip and prepare "goers". As students engage with going and sending we see God change their understanding of His character. In an effort to get everyone involved in this dream we have decided to see if God would use us to plant a church on an international university campus.

The journey to discover if we could do this began two years ago when a team of us went to Iowa to visit a church that leads

awesome international trips with college students. They have an 8 week summer program where they send hundreds of students every year to unreached places to share the gospel and help plant churches.

Last summer we had a couple from H2O join them and see what it was like and this month we are sending our very first summer team! They will spend time learning about the culture and language, meeting students on campus and connecting with local missionaries and churches. Our hope is that they will discover if it is possible for a team from H2O to go and plant a church there in the future. Please pray that God will bless their efforts and give us clear guidance! ■

CITY SISTERHOOD UPDATE

By: Alyssa Orweller

H2O City Sisterhood just wrapped up our 4th annual Women's Retreat at the beginning of April. This year the theme of the retreat was "Rest and Refresh." We had another great turnout with just under 60 women. We focused on what the Bible says about rest and engaged in a little R&R itself. The women walked away from the retreat with a better understanding of practical steps they could take for rest in day-to-day life as well as a greater awareness of what's keeping them from resting in the Lord.

Along with the retreat, the women of City have also come together for a kick-off get together, Christmas party and worship night this year.

These events have helped the women form community outside of the Life Group they regularly attend. We hope to continue encouraging a community of women who have greater depth in relationship with each other and with God. ■

H2O SPRING BREAK TRIPS

This past March, 140 H2O students attended 5 domestic and 2 international spring break trips. We offered trips to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Smoky Mountains, North Carolina, Hocking Hills and Destin and Cocoa Beach, Florida. Each trip focused on a different core value of our church.



A FEW HIGHLIGHTS...

For H2O's Destin Spring Break trip, a group of 19 spirit-filled students and staff ventured south to share their faith on the beach. Mornings were spent getting prepped for the mission through various teachings and getting into the Word. During the afternoon everyone paired up and started engaging people on the beach with spiritual conversations. In addition to approaching people directly, students got creative by playing ukuleles as an entry to big groups, and also engaged people while playing sports like spikeball. God showed up in big ways as everyone had the opportunity to share the gospel at least once on the trip. One student helped lead someone to Christ. Praise God! The team also had a coffee tent set up where they passed out free iced coffee, ice cream and donuts, in the hope of sharing the love of Jesus. God again moved as some deep spiritual conversations formed and people were able to share the gospel. Despite anxieties, fears, and exhaustion, people were continually sustained by the Lord and found joy in getting to be a part of God's kingdom story. By the end of the trip, everyone seemed excited to go back to campus to spread the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus. ■

This year for the Smoky Mountains spring break trip we took 40 students down to Gatlinburg to soak up the beautiful mountains and God's Word. We read Acts, Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, Hebrews, and James. Our desire was that the students would learn how to read, study, and apply God's Word, and that their hearts would also be deeply engaged with the Lord as a result. We saw God answer these prayers! Many students felt inspired by the faith of the disciples to be active in prayer, rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, and be bold in the gospel. Several students applied what they were reading to specific areas of their lives to defeat sin struggles and grow in Christlikeness. On the whole, many trip members came away with a greater love, appreciation for, and understanding of God's Word. We were thankful for the beautiful weather and mountain scenery as we encountered the Lord through His Word. ■