

Youth Tour 2000



Youth Tour 2000 returned July 27, 2000. It began as a vision birthed through Carol Houston in July 1999. On a flight from Richmond, Virginia to Atlanta, Georgia, Ms. Houston knew that she could take her youth from the Watts area of South Central Los Angeles on a cross-country tour of the United States.

Ms. Houston knew immediately how expensive this tour would be. As quickly as she had this thought, she had the solution. Each child would be challenged to raise \$1,000.00. Ms. Houston committed to match their \$1,000.00 contribution to cover the \$2,000.00 cost per person. Our tour traveled to 29 states and the District of Columbia in 24 days.

We had 26 children who met the challenge and participated on this remarkable trip! Our tour exposed the children of our church and community to the richness and vastness of our country. For many this was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Funds were raised by the children, their parents, their church, and many others who responded and contributed to this wonderful vision. Youth Tour 2000 Participants:



YOUTH TOUR 2000 ITINERARY:

Date

Destination

Mon. July 3	Tucson. Arizona
Tues. July 4	San Antonio. TX
Wed. July 5	Houston. TX
Thu. July 6	Mobile. AL
Fri. July 7-9	Atlanta. GA
Mon. July 10	Creedmor. NC
July 11-15	Norfolk. VA
July 16.17	Washinton. D.C.
Tue. July 18	Philadelphia. PA
Wed. July 19	New York. NY
Thu. July 20	Toledo. OH
Fri. July 21	Chicaao. IL
Sat. July 22	Sioux Falls. SD
Sun. July 23	Mount Rushmore. SD
Mon. July 24	Yellowstone. Wvomina
Tues. July 25	Salt Lake City. Utah
Wed. July 26	Las Vegas. Nevada
Thu. July 27	Back to Los Angeles, CA!

Youth Tour Participants



Joseph Akinwale
Age: 13 Grade: 7th
Interests: Playing Drums,
Skating and Biking



Matthew Akinwale
Age: 10 Grade: 5th
Sports, Scouting



Peter Akinwale
Age: 9 Grade: 3rd
Reading, Swimming,
Running



Sarah Akinwale
Age: 16 Grade: 11th
Reading, Computer Games
& Swimming



Bridgette Bryant
Age: 13 Grade: 8th
Talking on the Phone &
Hanging out at the Mall



Anthony C. Buck Jr.
Age: 15 Grade: 9th
Biking, Camping, &
English (the Subject)

with Friends



Tier S. Elera
Age: 9 Grade: 5th
Cooking, Dancing & School



Justin Ellis
Age: 12 Grade: 7th
Playing football



Lauren Ellis
Age: 9 Grade: 4th
Cheerleading



Lauri D. Fairmon-Scott
Age: 14 Grade: 9th
Playing Games, Talking,
& Joking Around



Racquel Fairmon
Age 12 Grade:6th
Band, Singing, &
Socializing
Watching Movies



Ron Fairmon Jr.
Age: 15 Grade: 9th
Playing Basketball,
Board Games, &



Ashley Footman
Age: 11 Grade 6th
Bowling



Robert Gooden
Age: 13 Grade 7th
Music, Sports, & Games



Jennifer Goran
Age: 15 Grade: 11th
Reading, Writing, &
Computers



Tinika Houston
Age: 9 Grade: 5th
Music, Handball, Kickball
& Computers



Leilyon Myers
Age: 12 Grade: 7th
Playing Sports, going
to Church, working on



Daisy Oliver
Age: 14 Grade 9th
Playing Softball,
Basketball, & Reading

the Computer & Singing



Darrin Oliver
Age: 9 Grade 3rd
Playing Games



Devyn Oliver
Age: 13 Grade: 7th
Dancing & Cheerleading



Shaquida Severe
Age: 11 Grade: 7th
Dancing, singing & movies



Cherelle Stanton
Age: 10 Grade: 5th
To Travel Around
the World



Shanelle Stanton
Age: 10 Grade: 5th
Art, Dancing, Singing,
& playing games



Andre Oneil Stepney
Age: 13 Grade 9th
Baseball & Electronics



Tiara Sutton
Age 11 Grade: 5th
Going to the Mall



Aireann Webb
Age: 11 Grade: 6th
Books, School & Dance

Chaperons



Yvonne Boyd
Intercessor



Ken Bryant
Deacon, Education
& Prison Ministry



Oscar Ellis
Deacon, Trustee,
& Usher



Rosie Ellis
Choir Member,
Praise Dance Teaching,
Deacon, & Usher



Denzil Houston
Music Director



Nikita L. Houston
Choir & Teaching



LaDonna L. Lewis
Choir, Dance, &
L.A.M.P.S

Christopher Lee Miller
Armorbearer, Security,
& Prison Ministry



Veronica Oliver
Ushering, Dance, Youth
& Adult Education,
& Leadership



Eary Sanders
Usher, Armorbearer



Lossie Sanders
Pastoral Care &
Youth Teacher

Travel Log

This page shows the highlights of our tour for July 2nd through July 9th. Check our [participants page](#) to see which of us is reporting on a particular day!

Sunday-July 2nd



**Pastor Carol with
Bishop Ralph & Betty Houston**



**Pastor Carol & our
Bus Driver: Varis Green**



Youth Participants & Chaperons

"Bon Voyage Celebration"

This afternoon the celebration began with family and friends joining us for an enjoyable "cook-out". The highlight of our day was having our bus driver, Mr. Varis Green in our Sunday morning worship service.

The children are excited about our early morning departure on tomorrow. Their bags must be loaded on the bus by 4:30 am. Our "Eagle" prayer time begins at 4:45 am. It is a joy to see our children excited about this prayer time. Our bus is expected to depart at 5:30 am.

As we prepare to depart, we once again would like to thank our many, many supporters. We ask for your prayers!

Reporting: Pastor Carol Houston

Monday-July 3rd



Scene of our first rest stop



Our bus driver: Mr. Green



The first news stand we saw in Arizona

"The Beginning"

Hi, my name is Joseph and I am going to tell you about the first day of Youth Tour 2000. The first thing we did was get on the bus and claim our seats. Next, we prayed for protection and safety on the road, and then we took off.

We went on Interstate 10, and in picture #1 you see the scenery of our first rest stop. While we were there, we took a picture of our bus driver, Mr. Green as you see in picture #2.

After we left the rest area, we started off on Interstate 10 again. In picture #3, you see a newspaper stand representing our first stop in Arizona. Well, that's all for today. Good-bye!

Reporting: Joseph Akinwale

Tuesday-July 4th



New Mexico Welcome Center



Historical Sites



Bridgette at restaurant in Fort Stockton, Texas

"The Journey to the Lone Star State"

Today we left our hotel in Tuscon, Arizona. We headed to Fort Stockton, Texas. We crossed the state line from Arizona into New Mexico. As you can see in picture #1 that is our first rest stop, where I took a picture of the "Welcome to New Mexico" sign. While I was there, I also took a picture of the New Mexico, USA display.

After entering El Paso, Texas, we came to the US Border inspection where we had to make sure we didn't have any illegal aliens with us who tried to cross the border. At this point in time in our journey to the Lone Star State we were approximately 160 miles away from our hotel in Fort Stockton, Texas.

We arrived in Fort Stockton at 8:19pm (6:19pm in California). Our day ended at the "Bien Venidos" restaurant shown above.

reporting: Bridgette Bryant

Wednesday-July



**Bishop Ralph & Betty Houston
with Justin Ellis outside Arby's**

**Tier Elera and Justin Ellis
on the grounds of the " Alamo"**

**Home of Edward and Sharon Scott
-Houston, TX**

"Remembering The Alamo"

In Fort Stockton, TX at our hotel, Pastor Carol told us that we had to get up early in the morning. After we woke up, we had a continental breakfast in the lobby of our hotel, the Comfort Inn. After having breakfast, we left Fort Stockton and were on our way to San Antonio, TX to visit the Alamo.

Before our visit to the Alamo, Joseph Akinwale' gave a brief history. Bridgette Bryant and Joseph were responsible for today's daily devotion time. They both gave a brief word of inspiration and prayed for our journey.

We ended our evening in the home of Edward and Sharon Scott, two major contributors of Youth Tour "2000". They prepared

Reporting: Tier Elera and Justin Ellis

Thursday-July 6th



**Sis. Lossie at
Louisiana Welcome Center**



Louisiana "Super Dome"



The N'AWLINS Riverwalk

"Welcome To N'Awlins"

Well, to kick off our day we had a wonderful continental breakfast. When we hit the road, I gave words of inspiration and prayed. We traveled for about an hour or two, then we rested.

We had a rest in Louisiana where it was hot, humid and sticky all rolled into one. At the rest stop we discovered a small crocodile in the water. We fed it and it came from under the water and showed us its whole body. It was about eight feet long.

After we arrived in New Orleans, we drove around viewing sites like the Super Dome where the New Orleans Saints play. Then we ventured off to find a restaurant where we were to dine. After two tries we settled for Piccadilly's, which was great. It was fingerlickin' good! We finished eating and went to what some people would call the strip, but its name is the "Riverwalk." It was some experience! The "Riverwalk" had everything. It had sportswear, party things, masks, jewelry, and food. We left the "Riverwalk" and was Alabama bound. Before we arrived in Alabama, we traveled through Mississippi.

I would like to take this opportunity to end my report by wishing my dad, Ronald Fairmon, Sr., a happy birthday. **"Happy Birthday Dad!"**

Reporting: Ronald Fairmon, Jr.

Friday-July 7th



Welcome to Florida



**Tinika and Leilyon in front of
Dexter Avenue Baptist Church,
Montgomery**



The Civil Rights Monument

"Black History In The Making"

Hello internet surfers. Our names are Leilyon Meyers & Tinika Houston. We are the reporters for today. We will tell you what we did today. We started the day with a good breakfast at 6:00 am. We got on the bus at approximately 8:00 am. When we got on the bus Pastor Carol gave us a little speech and then prayed. After that, Tinika gave a scripture from Proverbs 3:5-6. After she gave her inspiration and prayed, I quoted a scripture from Matthew 4:23-24 and also offered a word of prayer.

Since we were so close to Florida, we decided to drive across the state line. We saw the sign that welcomes you to Florida. It just so happened that there was a "Piggly Wiggly" market across the street. We then traveled to Montgomery, the capital of Alabama. While there we visited Dr. Martin Luther King's Church. It was called Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. We left there on our way to Tuskegee, Alabama to visit the Tuskegee University.

We arrived in Atlanta at 6:00pm. Our presiding Bishop, Bishop Flynn Johnson greeted us at his church, Atlanta Metropolitan Cathedral where his staff provided us with a wonderful finger-food buffet.

We ended our day by fellowshiping in a local laundro-mat washing and drying our clothes.

Reporting: Tinika Houston and Leilyon Meyers

Saturday-July 8th



Visiting the birth home of Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Gravesite of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Tour of the Georgia Dome led by Delores

"The Dream Lives On"

Today is Saturday and we had a good day. We visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. center for non-voilence. We also visited the King birth home, and Ebenezer Baptist Church which are National Historical sites in Atlanta, Georgia.

While inside Ebenezer Baptist Church we sang a little. In the corners of the church were pictures of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s father and grandfather.

We also visited the Coca-Cola company, and the Underground Mall. In the Underground we ate lunch. After lunch, some friends and I went to the "WB" store and there we bought things.

Next we visited the Georgia Dome. There were a lot of floors in the Georgia Dome. We went up to the highest floor, and it was a long way down.

At night we attended the "Metro II" service at the Atlanta Metropolitan Cathedral.

Today we did a lot of things and we all had a blessed day. We had a fun day.

Reporting: Cherelle

Stanton

Sunday-July 9th



A day of fun and leisure!!!

Hello! My name is Tiarra Sutton and I will tell you about our day. Today is Sunday, July 9th, the best day of the week for me. Our day began with a continental breakfast at the Radisson Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. We plan to leave early to go and visit three colleges. They are Spelman, Moorehouse and Clarke. The security guard at Spelman was kind enough to take us on a tour. Bill Cosby donated 27 million dollars to Spelman to build a Museum.

Now, the fun part about our day is that we went to Six Flags over Georgia. It was the bomb! I rode on a couple of rides and they were awesome. The last ride that I was able to ride before leaving was the Bumper Cars. Also, before leaving Six Flags, we

stopped and picked up some souvenirs.

Finally, when we returned to the hotel, we did some swimming. We had lots of fun in the pool. To show you how much fun we had, I chose to use the pictures we took of us having fun while swimming.

Well, this is my report for the day. Thank you and God bless you!

Reporting: Tiarra Sutton

Monday-July 10th



Flower letters "NC" at North Carolina Welcome Center



Swimming pool at University of North Carolina

"Cruisin' The Carolinas"

This morning we had a good breakfast. We made it to two states today, South Carolina and North Carolina. We went to a restaurant called Quincy's and stopped at Sam's Club to get drinking water. Today we went to visit North Carolina University and Duke University. We went to see the swimming pool at the University of North Carolina where the swimmers practice.

Duke University is in the city of Durham. When we got there, we saw the Duke Forest. There was a statue of Mr. Duke, and a "Gothic Style" chapel building.

Reporting: Matthew Akinwale

Tuesday-July 11th



Pastor Sharon S. Riley,
Bishop Barbara Amos,
Lauren Ellis & Laurie Fairmon
in front of FDCC



Sis. Michelle Harris & Deniese McAfee
at the "Waterside" Norfolk



U.S. Navel Ship in a
"Dry Dock" on the
Elizabeth River

"Southern Hospitality At It's Finest"

Good evening, today we departed from Creedmoor, North Carolina headed for Norfolk, Virginia to attend "**Celebration 2000**". This conference is being held at Faith Deliverance Christian Center (F.D.C.C.). When we arrived at F.D.C.C. Bishop Barbara M.

Amos and Pastor Sharon S. Riley greeted us. As we got off the bus and entered into the sanctuary, the staff of F.D.C.C. also greeted us with open arms and warm smiles as they handed out our conference material. We were given an agenda of daily events.

After receiving our materials, we re-boarded the bus and headed for "Waterside", a riverwalk. We had lunch, went shopping and toured the Elizabeth River home of the largest Naval shipyard in our country.

We returned back to the church later that evening for dinner and attended F.D.C.C.'s weekly bible study. Thank you FDCC for your warm **"southern"** hospitality! **Birthday Shout Outs:** Sis. LaTanya Stacy, Tracy, Auntie Kim and Uncle Duck

Reporting: Lauren Ellis and Lauri Fairmon

Wednesday-July 12th



Youth Enjoying Dance



Rehearsal at F.D.C.C.



Praise Conference

Giving God The Glory In Virginia!

Hello! My name is Ashley Footman and I am reporting on Norfolk, Virginia. Norfolk is the second largest city in Virginia. Virginia Beach is located at the mouth of the James Elizabeth and Nausemond River is at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay on the Atlantic Ocean. It's population is 261,229 (1990).

Norfolk, Virginia is a major seaport and an important military center, having the worlds largest concentration of Naval installation as well as United States Navy Marine and Coast Guard Facilities.

The town was founded in 1682. Its early growth was based on the West Indies trade and the Virginia and North Carolina.

Today at Faith Deliverance Christian Center (F.D.C.C.) we started our first day of our workshops. It was a good time of *fellowship*, *worship* and *relationship* with the various Churches. We really enjoyed ourselves as we started our time of giving God the glory through Praise Dance and Drama.

Reporting: Ashley Footman

Thursday-July 13th



Let's Dance: A hip-hop number performed by Bethel's youth.



T-shirt worn by conference participants.



Mime performers from South Carolina participated in the conference.

Praise Explosion is 'Off the Hook'

On this beautiful day that the Lord made, Daisy Oliver was the key to opening up the doors for "Youth Tour 2000."

The day began with a wonderful time of praise and worship at Faith Deliverance Christian Center. Their energy and love for the Lord was just heartwarming. It really blessed the youth of Bethel.

During the morning praise and worship, Bethel's youth (along with several dance ministries from other churches), were able to display our love for God through dance. It was so beautiful how dance could be very powerful. Moving our bodies to God's music "In His Name", blessed so many people.

After our time of fellowship ended, we continued having fun by participating in workshops to rehearse for the big "Praise Explosion" which occurred later in the evening.

During the ministry, the youth displayed all that they had learned over the past two days. It was awesome to witness and experience God's use of vessels of all ages.

Hugs and kisses to all my family!!! I love you!

Reporting: Daisy Oliver

Friday-July 14th



Pastor Carol with Ms Williams and another employee from Gateway 2000



Shanelle Stanton with her Gateway 2000 T-Shirt and gift bag



Inside the Virginia Air and Space Museum

"Thinking Out of the Box"

Today we went to morning session held at F.D.C.C. We experienced more mime, hip-hop and praise dances presented by the youth from all over. All the dancers were

really good and anointed. After the morning session, F.D.C.C. arranged a tour to Gateway 2000. We were able to tour both the production warehouse and call center. We were given the opportunity to see how the computers are actually put together and we even got a chance to sit with some of the technicians and listen in as they answered calls. Gateway 2000 even provided a pizza and soda lunch. Our tour guide, Ms. Gazelle Williams stressed that whatever we do in life, it is important that we begin "Thinking out of the box". We then left Gateway 2000 and headed for the Virginia Air and Space Museum. Many of us boarded a ride called "The Flight Simulator". *IT WAS TIGHT!*

Later this evening, we witnessed an official Service of Ordination. This was a very formal service. There were individuals who were being elevated to the office of Elder and others who received their Ministerial Credentials.

We had a good day today full of fun and excitement. Thanks again to Gateway 2000 and F.D.C.C.!

Reporting: Shanelle Stanton

Saturday-July 15th



Daisy & Friends at F.D.C.C.



Me & The Posse at Food Feast



Enjoying Gospel "Soul Train"

"Food Feast At F.D.C.C."

Hi! My name is Aireaunn Webb. Today, I am your reporter. We attended a Friendship, Fellowship, Relationship and Worship Conference this week in Norfolk, Virginia. I participated in the "hip hop" dance workshop where "Missy", our instructor taught us a cool new dance. It only took two days to learn the dance. We presented this dance to the congregation of Faith Deliverance

Christian Center (F.D.C.C.) and the visiting churches on Thursday evening.

Now, I would like to tell you about today. We went to Faith Deliverance Christian Center to enjoy a "Food Feast." Everyone wore their conference "T-Shirt". This was mandatory in order to participate and eat. We had a heavy lunch which consisted of chicken, greens, bread, potato salad, cake, chips, beans, soda and juice. After lunch, we played outside and fellowshiped with other young people. We all danced in a gospel "soul train" line. They played some jammin' gospel music. This was a lot of fun!

Finally, we returned to the hotel and went swimming. This was the first time in a long time that we swam since arriving in Virginia.

Reporting: Aireaunn Webb

Sunday-July 16th



The "Big House" at Carter's Grove



The Lincoln Memorial
at "The Mall"



The Washington Monument
at "The Mall"

Headed For D.C.

Today we say good-bye to Norfolk, Virginia and make our way to Washington D.C. Along the way we stopped to visit a very famous plantation known as "Carter's Grove" located in Williamsburg, Virginia. On this huge piece of land (approx. 400 acres), a rich man named Mr. Carter owned about one thousand slaves. During our tour of the plantation we visited the house that Mr. Carter constructed. In the 1940's, the house was restored, enlarged and modified to accommodate its new owners. During the tour of Carter's Grove we visited the "Slave Quarters" where most of the slaves lived and raised their families.

From Williamsburg, we headed for "D.C." where we visited the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Veteran Memorial. The Vietnam Veteran Memorial was inscribed with the names of those veterans who served and died during the Vietnam War. *This was a very fun and educational day!*

Reporting: Peter Akinwale

Monday-July 17th



Bureau of Engraving and Printing



Gravesite of Robert Kennedy



The Capitol Building

A DAY IN D.C.

Today was a busy day! We started our day with a tour of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. We learned how money is printed from start to finish. As we walked through the corridors, the printing ink smelled like wet paint. Our tour guide asked us to take a deep breath because it was the "smell of money".

We left the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and headed for the Museum of American History a part of the Smithsonian. We enjoyed lunch and a leisure self-guided tour of different exhibits. There was a wonderful exhibit of the African-American experience. From the museum, we headed on foot to the Capitol Building. There was a total of 91 steps that we climbed before reaching the top. After going inside the Capitol, we were greeted by our tour guide who took us through different rooms. He gave the history of

the different paintings on the walls and sculptures. We did a lot of walking today and definitely got our exercise.

Our day doesn't end! After our Capitol tour, we drove to the Arlington Cemetery. When we arrived, Pastor Carol arranged to take a guided tour of the cemetery on a tram. I think everyone was really happy because there was applause and cheering when she made the announcement. During our tour of Arlington Cemetery, we visited the grave sites of John F. Kennedy, Jackie Onasis-Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. We saw the changing of the guards at the grave-site of the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier".

As this day drew to a close, we were tired! But not too tired to eat. We ended our day at a wonderful family buffet for good food and fellowship.

Reporting: Racquel Fairmon

Tuesday-July 18th



The White House



Independence Hall



The Liberty Bell

The White House: "Thank God I Have Freedom!"

The first place we visited today was the White House. In the White House there are rooms such as the Red Room, Green Room, Yellow Room, and the Blue Room. The Red Room has been used by first ladies for "get togethers" and "tea parties". The Yellow Room had beautiful china everywhere and golden colored curtains draped all around. There was a wooden table with eagles as its legs. I don't really remember what the Green Room had in it, I just know it was very pretty. A chandelier hung from the ceiling of the Blue Room. All through the rooms were sculptures of people like George Washington and Christopher Columbus. After our visit to the White House we were on our way to Maryland.

In Maryland, our visit to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum saddened and angered me. We were able to go inside of a slave ship. We saw slaves chained and packed on top of each other. When a slave needed to urinate or defecate, they were forced to do so where they were bound. Our tour guide explained that when slaves were sold they were branded as cattle. If they were disobedient they would mark them on their foreheads. Our guide explained the process of picking cotton. If a slave did not pick 5,000 lbs. of cotton they had to wear an iron brace around their neck. This brace extended down to their legs. At the top of the brace were bells so their master could locate them. Even though the slave could not bend down while wearing the brace, they were expected to do the same amount of work. If they did not meet the requirements, an iron mask was put on their face, so they could not eat or drink. There were just enough holes for them to breathe.

When our guide completed the narration, we were allowed to tour the museum at our own pace. A group decided to go downstairs to the basement. This part of the museum hurt me the most. It depicted things like the lynching of "colored" people. One display showed a black man and woman being hung. The woman's legs had been cut off and her stomach had been cut open. It was through that opening here live baby was taken. In this same display a black man had been castrated and his genitalia lay in a bloody pool. Can you imagine being treated with such cruelty? We then went upstairs, where we discovered a display of black kings and queens. I regret we don't have pictures of this wonderful experience. The museum would not allow the use of our digital camera.

Pastor Carol choose Wendy's for lunch. It was a delicious meal, believe me! Unfortunately it began to rain, so we had to run back to the bus. Praise God we were on our way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania!

In Philadelphia we toured Independence Hall and saw the Liberty Bell. In Independence Hall our guide informed us of the many people who sat in this courtroom in the 1700's. People like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington, (until he was called upon to go to Massachusetts and lead the army). On July 2, 1776 they voted for the right of Independence. Hamilton, Madison, John Adams, John Hancock, (the President of Congress), Timothy Mattlock, and Benjamin Franklin, are a few who signed the Declaration of Independence. After it was signed Ben Franklin made a comment saying, "Often and often I have sat here and seen half of a sun. In which I wonder whether it is rising or setting." Mr. Franklin's statement meant that if by signing the Declaration of Independence, were they taking a step forward or a step backwards. In the end, Ben Franklin knew for a fact that they were taking a good step forward for our nation's future. Then we ventured on the see the Liberty Bell.

After our visit to Philadelphia, we boarded our bus and went to our hotel in Bensalem. Because it was Shaquida's birhday, Pastor Carol decided we should celebrate. We ate at "Dynasty Restaurant". The food was delicious! Our waiter's presented Shaquida with a birthday cake. We had an awesome time of fellowship. I believe Shaquida will forever remember her 12th birthday.

I definitely must end this report because we leave at 7:00 A.M. I hope this report has been as exciting and educational as it has been for me.

Before I go, Hi Mommy! I Miss You!

Reporting: Jennifer A. Goran

Wednesday-July 19th



Our Lady of Freedom:
The Statue of Liberty



The hustle and bustle of
"Time Square" in New York City



View of N.Y. from
Empire State Building's

Nibbling at the "Big Apple"

Our day started early with breakfast, loading the bus and morning devotion. We took off and hit the highway. We went on the New Jersey turnpike. We were headed to New York City for a cruise around "Manhattan" on the Hudson River. In order to get into the city we went through an underwater tunnel called "Lincoln".

We arrived at pier 83 and immediately boarded the boat. Once aboard there was a man who narrated. He told about important events and facts. We saw the Statue of Liberty, cruised under several bridges, and passed by Yankee Stadium.

After we got off the boat we went to "Times Square" where it was very crowded. We walked around, ate lunch, and went into stores. Then we got back on the bus and headed for the Empire State Building. We took the elevator to the 86th floor of the Empire State Building. We went up really high, and it was amazing how you could see the entire city of New York and beyond. The Empire State Building was fun.

Reporting: Robert Gooden

Thursday-July 20th



Our last look of Pennsylvania



Ashley working on her bible assignment



Devyn at the Ohio visitor center

" Heading Out West"

Today we started our day with continental breakfast. I decided not to have anything to eat because I wasn't hungry. It was my turn to give the opening prayer and devotion. This morning Pastor Carol instructed us to watch a video about the "Underground Railroad". We learned many different facts about several individuals such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and others.

When we crossed the state-line from Pennsylvania into Ohio, we stopped at the visitors center to take pictures. Today consisted of a leisurely drive through Pennsylvania and Ohio. We spent the majority of our day on the bus talking, playing and having fun.

After we checked into our hotel, we spent the rest of our evening doing what we love to do SWIMMING!

Reporting: Devyn Oliver

Friday-July 21st



"A.J." at the Indiana/Michigan state line.



Visiting the University of Norte Dame.



View from the Sky Deck of the Sears Tower

Visiting The Windy City

Our day began with morning devotion and prayer. Mrs. Sharon Randall, our special guest, left the tour this morning to be with her son as he celebrates his 23rd birthday. We're going to miss you Mrs. Randall!

On our journey to Chicago, we were able to cross the Indiana state line into Michigan. After crossing over, we headed back to interstate #80 west. After a few hours of driving, we found ourselves in South Bend, Indiana. While there, it was decided that we could briefly visit the University of Norte Dame for photographs.

We left South Bend, Indiana and headed to Chicago for our tour at the top of the Sears Tower. It is considered the world's tallest building. It stands 1,450 feet high (1,730 feet with antennas) and has 110 floors. When we finally arrived in Chicago at the Sears Tower, we took the express elevator to the top. What a view! We were graced with the presence of our very own, Pastor Segaro Bozart who happened to be in Chicago for business. It was good to see him!

As I end my report, I would like to say, "I miss you mom and I'll be home soon"!

Reporting: Andre O'Neil Stepney(A.J.)

Saturday-July 22nd



First peek of the country-side



A country-side view of Minnesota



Sarah at the state line of Iowa in Wisconsin

"MOO!"

To start our day, we departed from Glenview, Illinois for Wisconsin. When we arrived in Wisconsin, we stopped at a rest area for approximately 20 minutes. From there we got back on interstate #90 west and headed for Minnesota. On our way, Darrin and I happened to see a lot of cows in the open fields. We were not surprised because for the most part, Wisconsin looks like farm land, you know, the 'real' country-side.

As we gazed at the country-side, we took some great photographs to show "you folks" back in the city. We then stopped for lunch. A few minutes later, we crossed the great Mississippi River right into Minnesota. Darrin and I continued to view the land and it was quite similar to that of Wisconsin ... a vast country-side with even more cows.

After a while of driving through Minnesota, we got close enough to cross the state line into Iowa. Darrin and I noticed that there was no change in the scenery. We did admit to each other that it was beautiful. At the rest area we got more information on Iowa, including information on its capitol which is Des Moines. I also got an opportunity to chat with an older gentleman about Youth Tour 2000. He was so nice that he gave me and some of the other Youth Tour participants Iowa state magnets.

After our brief, but much needed break, we headed for Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where we checked into our hotel for the night.

Reporting: Sarah Akinwale and Darrin Oliver

Sunday-July 23rd



Gutzon Borglum, Sculptor



Mt. Rushmore



Sculpture of Crazy Horse
(partially completed)

"Take Me Back To The Black Hills Of South Dakota!"

Today was a big treat! We visited the greatest mountain that I have ever seen, Mount Rushmore. We discovered another mountain that was dedicated to a spiritual leader of the "Lakota Sioux Indian Tribe" by the name of "Crazy Horse".

During our visit to this mountain we went through a museum of the sculptor who designed the American presidents, Mr. Gutzon Borglum. He started at the age of 60 when he built this sculpture. He also created other models of other presidents but Mt. Rushmore was his largest work.

When we visited "Crazy Horse", 17 miles away, we discovered it is still under construction. "Crazy Horse" was a great leader among his people. It was agreed that this mountain be dedicated in his honor. "Crazy Horse" was killed by an American soldier. Indians will always remember what "Crazy Horse" said, "The dead of my people lie in these hills."

We left "Crazy Horse" mountain and took one last look at Mt. Rushmore, and then headed for the hotel in Spearfish. We had a great time of fellowship together in South Dakota, and will remember this for a long time.

Reporting: Anthony Buck

Monday-July 24th



Shaquida In Wyoming



Children Chasing A Small Calf
At the Cody Rodeo



Cowboy Riding Wild Horse
"Bareback"

"Roping Cattle In the Rocky's"

Hello Everyone! This is Shaquida Severe, your reporter for today. We started our morning with a continental breakfast at Black Hills Inn located in Spearfish, Wyoming. I did my devotional which was about "faith". After my devotional we sang Happy Birthday to Sis. Eary Sanders affectionately known as "Granny". Today is her birthday. We left South Dakota headed to Cody, Wyoming. We stopped at a rest area and I had my photographer take a picture of me under the "Welcome to Wyoming" sign.

While driving to our destination, we watched videos. We watched the "Prince of Egypt," which was very interesting. Pastor Carol paused the movie for a moment to have us look out at the Rocky Mountains. After a while we stopped for lunch in a small town which had a population of 311 people. It was really small! In this small town, we ate lunch at McDonald's. We stayed there for about an hour and returned to interstate #90 west. Once we got started, we watched another video entitled "Richie Rich."

When we reached our hotel we unloaded the bus, put our luggage in our rooms, and headed for the "Cody Nite Rodeo". We were very excited about this rodeo because many of us had never attended a rodeo. When we arrived, we saw some of the animals on our way in. We saw cowboys riding bareback on wild horses. As the horse began bucking in revolt, it became difficult for the cowboy to hang on. This was very exciting to watch. There was a clown that entertained us in between events. Children twelve and under were allowed to chase after a small calf for a prize ribbon that was tied to his tail. This was the most exciting time I have had in a long time. I hope you enjoyed this report. I love you!

P.S. Happy belated birthday to everyone who celebrated their birthday in July. I miss you mom! I'll see you soon.

Reporting: Shaquida Severe

Tuesday-July 25th



Hot Spring in Yellow Stone



Jennifer at "Old Faithful"



Eruption of "Old Faithful"

"Yellow Stone: Let The Memories Continue"

This morning was one of the earliest mornings we experienced on the tour, with the exception of day one. We left our hotel headed for Yellowstone National Park, the largest and oldest National Park in the U.S.

As we approached the East Entrance of the park, it was decided that we would travel the lower road, known as the "lower loop." This loop is approximately 98 miles long. Along this route the scenery was absolutely breathtaking! We witnessed many forms of wildlife, such as elk, deer, and bison, to name a few. Brooks, streams, waterfalls and hot springs were the backdrop for our beautifully painted canvas.

Yellowstone covers approximately 2.2 million acres or 3,472 square miles. It is larger than the states Delaware, and Rhode Island combined, and spreads across the borders of 3 states - Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

In 1988, Yellowstone National Park experienced the largest fire fighting efforts in the history of the U.S. Conditions occurred that were never seen before. There were extended droughts and high winds. Over 36% of the park burned, which is approximately 793,880 acres. As we drove through the park, we saw the devastating aftermath of these fires. A large area of land had literally been stripped of its trees, wildlife, and its green blankets of grass.

In addition, we saw the eruption of Old Faithful, the world's best known and most popular geyser. Eruption's have been known to last anywhere from 1-1/2 to 5 minutes, and can expel 3,700 to 8,400 gallons of boiling water. The water can reach heights varying from 106 to 184 feet. Old Faithful is still as spectacular and as predictable as it was a century ago.

I believe this trip to Yellowstone National Park shall be etched in our memories forever. As we exited Yellowstone, we headed for Highway #86 to Provo, Utah, which is our lodging for tonight.

Reporting: Jennifer Goran

Wednesday - July 26th



Our hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada



**Lauri posing at the pool
in Las Vegas**

Today was an exciting day! For starters, we got a chance to sleep in late. Pastor Carol informed us last night that we could sleep late since our time on the bus yesterday was 17 hours.

In less than two days, we'll be home. Currently we are traveling from Provo, Utah to Las Vegas, Nevada. Some of us are hoping that when we arrive in Las Vegas, we'll be able to go to Circus Circus to play video games and swim at our hotel. We are patiently awaiting Pastor Carol's decision.

The bus ride from Provo to Las Vegas was fun. Pastor Carol allowed us to individually share with our peers our personal thoughts in regards to each persons overall behavior on the tour. This was fun because it allowed us to see ourselves in the eyes of others. Pastor Carol did explain that this was not a time to get even, be mean or vindictive. We were encouraged to give honest and constructive criticism. The boys ranked from 1 to 10 and the girls 1 to 16. The boy and the girl who ranked number one needed improvement in thier behavior. The boy who ranked number ten and the girl who ranked number 16 had the most excellent behavior. Among the girls, I placed number ten. We wanted to rate our chaperons, but Pastor Carol told us that each chaperon rated excellent. She appreciated that they consented to assist her with caring for us.

When we arrived in Las Vegas, Pastor Carol decided that swimming would be our entertainment for the evening. I really wanted to go to Circus Circus, but I was cool with her decision because it was hot. 104 degrees to be exact!