

Youth Tour 2010

The Time Has Come Again! Welcome to the first official page of Youth Tour 2010. As we get closer to the date of departure, the more developed this site will become. Please Check periodically and see all the great updates Youth Tour 2010 will bring before you. Enjoy!

Youth Tour 2010 is breaking new boundaries all around! It has taken record for longest Youth Tour to date; lasting 42 days! It is also the first Youth Tour to pay special attention to the entire west coast of USA. We plan to start the trip going north all the way to Washington State. A few of our donors have believed so much in our program that they have invited us to stop by their homes on route, so they can further enrich our participants. And when one cannot think it can get better...Your Tour 2010 is the first Tour to visit the state of Florida and to take a trip to the world famous Disneyworld.

Youth Tour 2010 has also broke a record for the amount of money each student must raise. The cost of this trip is an impressive \$3000.00 per person. Many of our potential participants have already begun to raise their funds in response to the challenge.

If you are reading this and would like to support our effort to expose our children to the beauty of the USA. There is a way to do so. You can send a donation to:

Eagle Empowerment, Inc.
8724 South Central Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90002

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND GREATLY APPRECIATED

Eagle Empowerment, Inc. (Tax ID #74-3109083) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

YOUTH TOUR 2010
June 28 – August 8, 2010
Overnight Itinerary

<u>Route</u>	<u>Days Overnight</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Los Angeles, CA to Fresno, CA	1	234	June 28, 2010
Fresno, CA to Pleasanton to Castro Valley, CA	1	174	June 29, 2010
Castro Valley, CA to San Francisco to Sacramento, CA	1	112	June 30, 2010
Sacramento, CA to Eugene, OR	1	477	July 1, 2010
Eugene, OR to Seattle, WA	3	295	July 2 – 4, 2010
Seattle, WA to Spokane, WA	1	279	July 5, 2010
Spokane, WA to Bozeman, MT	1	400	July 6, 2010
Bozeman, MT to Billings, MT	1	140	July 7, 2010
Billings, MT to Bismarck, ND	1	420	July 8, 2010
Bismarck, ND to Brainerd, MN	1	336	July 9, 2010
Brainerd to Nisswa to St. Paul, MN	1	177	July 10, 2010
St. Paul, MN to Madison, WI	1	254	July 11, 2010
Madison, WI to Chicago, IL	2	135	July 12 - 13, 2010
Chicago, IL to Detroit, MI	1	301	July 14, 2010
Detroit, MI to Pittsburgh, PA	1	300	July 15, 2010
Pittsburgh, PA to Washington, DC	4	250	July 16-19, 2010
Washington, DC to Norfolk, VA	4	194	July 20 – 23, 2010
Norfolk, VA to Orangeburg, SC	4	406	July 24-27, 2010
Orangeburg, SC to Jacksonville, FL	1	255	July 28, 2010
Jacksonville, FL to Orlando, FL	3	164	July 29 -31, 2010
Orlando, FL to Pensacola, FL	1	457	August 1, 2010
Pensacola, FL to New Orleans, LA	1	195	August 2, 2010
New Orleans, LA to Houston, TX	1	356	August 3, 2010
Houston, TX to San Antonio, TX	1	195	August 4, 2010
San Antonio, TX to Las Cruces, NM	1	605	August 5, 2010
Las Cruces, NM to Phoenix, AZ	1	391	August 6, 2010
Phoenix, AZ to San Diego, CA	1	356	August 7, 2010
San Diego, CA to Los Angeles, CA	RETURN	124	AUGUST 8, 2010
TOTAL	42	7,982	

6/2/2010

Youth Tour 2010 Daily Log

On the Road Again.....



Eagle Empowerment now has a Flickr Page. You will find a link at the bottom of this page. Please Browse through the daily articles our students have made on the tour...

Saturday, June 26th

Bon Voyage!!!!

Our celebration attracted family and friends from the greater Los Angeles area. Greetings from past participants were enhanced by the testimonies of current participants. The decor of colorful, creative balloon displays allow the atmosphere to explode in splendor. Our last letter to our supportive donor, asked for additional funds to help the Gray children. As usual, you opened your hearts and it was accomplished. They will be on the bus!! Please follow us daily as we discover our great country in 42 days. Our journey begins this Monday, June 28, 2010.

Carol Houston

The Gray Children



Our Fabulous Cake



The Map of Our Journey



Reporting: Joyce Hopkins

Day 1- Monday, June 28th **(High Temperature for today was 110 degrees F)**

The morning was overcast, but spirits were high. The weather didn't matter. The atmosphere was electrical. As the participants arrived at Bethel Unspeakable Joy Church, they lined their bags to be loaded on the bus. As we waited, everyone was talking, laughing, and expressing their excitement for the trip. The cameras were constantly flashing and all you heard was people saying, "smile!" Finally, someone spotted a "Mercedes Motor Coach" and there was pandemonium. The bus slowly pulled up to the loading area. Once the participants loaded the bus, parents were allowed to step aboard to see where the students will be seated for the next 42 days. The bus departed at 6:40am. The journey began!

We traveled from Interstate #5 to California Highway #99 to arrive at our first educational activity; Colonel Allen Allensworth State Historic Park. We were met by our tour guide, Jerelyn Oliviera. She was marvelous and informative. We walked the land that Colonel Allensworth walked 100 years ago. We saw the buildings as they would have appeared 100 years ago. That was exciting. Colonel Allen Allensworth once stated "Somewhere, sometime, everyone has a dream to have a home." This statement was the heart of his vision to establish the community of Allensworth. It was important to him that blacks own their land and home. The community of Allensworth was established August 3, 1908. The land in which it was established had water and fertile

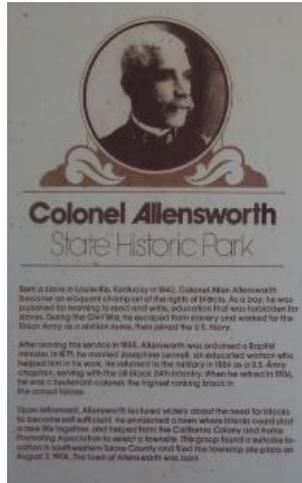
soil so they could be self-sufficient. The community had the foundation for a great town.

When we left Allensworth State History Park, we dined at the Black Bear Diner. We arrived at the Quality Inn of Fresno to rest. What a wonderful beginning to our 42 day tour!

Group Photo First Rest Stop



Colonel Allen Allensworth



Allensworth Market 100 Years Ago



Reporting: Azadeh Myers & Makayla Morales

Day 2- Tuesday, June 29th A Day With the Gobles

It was destined for Youth Tour 2010 to spend the day with Roy and D'Aun Goble. Their home is located in the lovely hills of Pleasanton, California in the community of Eagle Estates. How fitting for the "eaglets" of Youth Tour 2010 to play and feast on the estate of the mighty Goble Eagles. The day began with introductions and swimming. This was an opportunity for us to meet new friends. The Goble's home was beautiful with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The lunch was great because it was cooked on an outdoor grill, with love. After hours of lounging, basketball, putting, TV, billards and exercising. they treated us to a tour of their family ranch which was twenty minutes from their home. This was an opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, coming face to face with horses. Mr. Goble talked about his family history and Mrs. Goble talked about her newly planted olive grove. The setting was very personal and intimate. We enjoyed viewing the family ranch. We learned its history and the unique business of olive harvesting. What a great opportunity for our donors to interact with us. We are

students they financially supported. The Gobles went beyond investing financially, they established a personal bond with us. We have precious memories of our day with the Gobles. Our lives will be forever changed. The Gobles planted valuable seeds of vision, hope, friendship, hospitality, family, and love.

Poolside at the Gobles Sarah, Aerica, DaRon & the Gobles Main Entrance to the Goble's Ranch



Reported By DaRon Turner, And Aerica Myers

Day 3 - Wednesday, June 30th

Our morning started with breakfast at 6:45am, we needed to be on the bus at 8:00am to began our travel. Today is Azadeh Myers' 17th birthday. We sung "Happy Birthday" to her following devotion. We lead devotion today. I, Janell, read the devotion and I, Rochelle, gave a reflection of the Scripture. Chaperon Gwen Baker lead the morning prayer. We then made our way to Stanford University.

When we arrived at Stanford University, we were greeted by Mr. Jim Stump. Mr. Stomp has been Chaplin for the sports department for 40 years. He was our tour guide for the morning. We visited many sights on campus and visited the bookstore where we able to buy items. After we left the bookstore, we went to see the sports facilities.

We traveled from Stanford University to San Fransisco to visit Alcatraz State Penitentiary. We boarded a boat to cross the bay to the island. We climbed steep hills before arriving at the entrance to the prison. Once inside, we took an audio tour and heard the voices of inmates and officers. It was a great tour! We returned to the boat and crossed over to the real world.

We boarded our bus and traveled Interstate 80 to Sacramento. We ate dinner at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Sacramento. We had a great time that was full of laughter. Pastor Carol invited friends to visit us at the restaurant. The friends included Ms. Ulyses Bridges and Pastor David and Bonnie Johnson. Pastor David prayed and blessed us before we departed for our hotel. We lodged at the Quality Inn. Our day ended at 10:00pm.

The Church on Stanford's Campus - A Cell on Alcatraz Island - Reporters of the Day



Reporting: Rochelle Tyler and Janell Gray

Day 4 - Thursday, July 1st

Today we headed from California to Oregon. We began our day with breakfast at 8:00am. We were offered our own dining room because of our large group. At 9:00am we loaded the bus. Xenia and I facilitated the morning devotion. During our drive, we stopped at a shopping center for the chaperons to make quick purchases. Pastor Carol informed us that we were 2 1/2 hours from Redding, California and 4 1/2 hours from the California state line. During our drive, everyone was given a pre-test to see if our writing skills were up to par. We reached Yreka, California and stopped to have lunch at the Black Bear Diner. It was at 4.24pm when we officially crossed the California State line into Oregon. Before we made it to Oregon, however, we were struck by the beauty of California's Mt. Shasta.

Mt. Shasta at a Distance



Mt. Shasta Lake



Mt. Shasta Up Close



Reporting: Taylor Nevels & Xenia Zelaya

Day 5 - Friday, July 2nd

Today is the fifth day of Youth Tour 2010. We left Eugene, Oregon and we're headed to Portland, Oregon. The weather was a little rainy and gloomy. The weather in the Northwest is different from the weather in Los Angeles. We stopped to see the

Vancouver First Baptist Church. The Pastor of this church, Pastor Matt Hennessee, is a long time friend to Pastor Carol.

We left the church to visit the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry; or OMSI for short. The museum was very interesting and was filled with fun exhibits. OMSI was very similar to the California Science Center. The most interesting exhibit was one that showed the process of a baby's development; from pregnancy to birth. The exhibit contained models of babies from every week of development. Another exhibit talked about the earth's history and another showed how much chemistry is involved in our everyday life. We left OMSI and went to the Sea-Tac Airport. From there we picked up Brother Denzil Houston. He will accompany us for the rest of Youth Tour.

We discovered today that we traveled through 3 major cities which are state capitals: Sacramento, California, Salem, Oregon and Olympia, Washington. That discovery was very fascinating! We had our evening dinner at Applebee's in Seattle. We passed the Space Needle enroute to the restaurant. Tomorrow, we will have a chance to see the Space Needle up close.

A Model Baby in a Exhibit - Oregon Museum of Science & Industry- Vancouver First Baptist Church



Reporting: Jalen Gray and Monae Bradley

Day 6 - Saturday, July 3rd

We are currently in Seattle, Washington. Thankfully today, we did not get up early. I awoke around 8 in the morning. A small group of us went to Kmart, which marks the first time that anybody, besides Pastor Carol and the chaperons were able to go shopping. We left the hotel at 12noon en route to the Seattle Space Needle. The Seattle Space Needle is well over 500 feet tall. Its foundation weighs 9500 tons. The needle itself weighs 3700 tons. The tower is able to withstand winds of up to 150 mph. On a daily basis the elevator takes over 4000 people to the top of the needle. I was absolutely mortified at the idea of having 24 people being stuffed into a tiny little elevator only to be catapulted 500 feet in the air!! I could not look out of the window, because I was too busy looking at the insides of my eyelids, they are very interesting. Once we arrive to the top of the tower, all fear was removed as I was able to capture the breathtaking view of Washington. The skyline was absolutely beautiful. Even the sun

came out, in the midst of the wettest state, to enhance the beauty of it all. God is great!

After our departure from the Space Needle, Mr. John Alvarez, our bus driver, gave us a tour of some of the historic sites of downtown Seattle. Then we made our way to Mercer Island via a floating bridge to meet a Youth Tour 2010 donor, Mrs. Maggie Dorsey. The Dorsey's house is absolutely gigantic. The backyard sits on the shore of Lake Washington, with a great view of Bellevue. We were able to see the primary residence of Bill Gates from Bill and Maggie Dorsey's backyard. We were also introduced to a game called "Pickle Ball". Some children had absolutely no aim. Even so, it was a new and fun experience. Mrs. Dorsey generously donated the funds for our lunch at Marie Calendar's Restaurant. It was an amazing bonding experience. After lunch, we staked out a laundry mat in preparation to do our laundry tomorrow. It was a really blessed day.

P.S. Floyd and I would like to say thank you to all our donors. Clarence adds, "I love you Mommy and Auntie Bev"!!!!

Atop the Space Needle



The Space Needle



Our Group with Mrs. Maggie Dorsey



Reporting: Clarence Braithwaite & Floyd Zelaya

Day 7 - Sunday, July 4th (Happy Independence Day)

I (Ashley), awoke at 7:15am to a cloudy morning. The entire group ate breakfast and went to their rooms to prepare for the activities of the day. The main activity for today was a visit to the Museum of Flight. We arrived to the museum around 9:21am. When we entered the museum, we split up into two groups of 12 and were directed by two guides. The guide for the group that included all three of the reporters was named Frag Michl. He was a very knowledgeable tour guide. He taught us extensively about the early

history of flight. He explained to a technique called "Covering & Coating", in which planes used cloth as opposed to canvas to make the plane light weight. The Wright Brothers were especially important in early flight. The brothers were responsible for the concept of "wing warping". This made it possible to control a flying craft. Flight technology in its early phases did not allow planes to fly high or far. But technology has advanced so much that now there are planes, such as the "Black Bird", that can cover a mile in *two seconds*.

We went to do laundry after our visit to the museum. Since it was Independence Day, we ate at Famous Dave's BBQ restaurant for dinner. We returned to the hotel to repack our clean clothes and prepare to leave the hotel on Monday morning.

Human Powered Airplane



The Wright Brothers Model Aircraft



Reporters with our Tour Guide



Reporting: Ashley Cornelious, Rachel Stanton, Garin Grey

Day 8 - Monday, July 5th

Today was a traveling day. We did not have many activities planned for today. The day began with breakfast and was followed by boarding the bus. Makayla and I lead the morning devotion. The team made one visit to Sam's Club and from there we made our way to Spokane, Washington.

Interstate 90 east was the road of choice. The scenery found on the interstate was beautiful. There was a sign near a construction site that read "Give 'em a Break"; very funny! Mr. Alvarez told our team that the landscape would change the further east we traveled. In the early phases of travel, the landscape consisted of very dense forest that spread across rolling hills that were capped with an abundance of clouds. The more we moved east, the landscape transformed into a flat grassland that had few clouds to block the radiant sun.

Mr. Alvarez made a kind gesture by pulling off the interstate to view the majestic Columbia River. This sight was one that a camera could not fully capture. The Columbia River is something that everyone should experience in person. There was a monument on top of a nearby hill that was made of horse figures frozen in movement. The artwork was called "The Wild Horse Monument".

We left this sight and arrived in Spokane, Washington. It took a total of five hours to drive from Seattle to Spokane. We took a quick tour of Spokane and we can easily see that it takes more than an hour to fully appreciate the city's beauty. The brick buildings, the streets, and the nature surrounding them fit in great harmony. We took a couple of pictures at Gonzaga University and Washington State University. We went to Perkin's Family Restaurant for supper. We ended the day with a pleasant trip to the pool and jacuzzi. What a relaxing day.

The Vantage Bridge & Columbia River



Reporters at Gonzaga University



The Wild Horses



Reporting: Azadeh Myers and Makayla Morales

Day 9 - Tuesday, July 6th

The Marathon

There is a good chance that Youth Tour 2010 covered its greatest distance to date. We left Spokane, Washington for an excursion to Bozeman, Montana. We covered over 400 miles and drove about six hours to make it to Bozeman, but we made it. En route to Bozeman, we traveled through the State of Idaho. Idaho is a beautiful state. The part of Idaho that we traveled has its roots in mining. We stopped at a rest stop in Wallace, Idaho to use the restroom.

Pastor Carol strongly believes in "Education In Motion". She issued packets to the team that taught proper punctuation. We stopped for lunch at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. We were happy to hear that we left a positive impression on the restaurant's staff. A

couple of hours later, we gave a "water toast" for peace and blessings for the duration of the tour.

One major land feature we passed through to get to our destination was the Rocky Mountains. The Rocky Mountains make up a mountain range that runs from Canada to Mexico. Mr. Alvarez shared that Louis and Clark explored The Rockies and the West during their expedition (with the help of Sacajewea, a Native American that was familiar with the area). The Continental Divide runs through the Rocky Mountains.. This line separates the US into its East and West portions. Crossing this line means that we officially left the western part of the USA. Our time zone also changed from Pacific to Mountain time.

The last stop we made before we lodged for the night was to a town called Three Forks. This town is important because it contains three rivers: Jefferson River, Madison River, and Gallatin River. These three rivers join together in Three Forks to create the Missouri River. We arrived in Bozeman, Montana around 9:15pm. It was a long day, but a good day.

A Stature in Wallace, ID



A Glimpse of the Rocky Mountains



Map Features of Three Forks, Montana



Day 10 - Wednesday, July 7th

Today we embarked on our journey at 8am. As usual, our day started with devotion and prayer. We asked the team if they want to be Godly. We sang Happy Birthday to Aerica; who turned 16 years old today. We made our way down Interstate 90 to Adam's White Tail Ranch. The Adams are major donors to Eagle Empowerment. The ranch covers many acres. When we entered the ranch, our eyes met lush green fields, beautiful horses and cattle. We were divided into four groups so we could rotate between activities. We rode horses down a beautiful trail, roped cattle, went fishing, and played tennis. For many it was our first time doing all these things. After our first activity we were served lunch. Pastor Carol has the record of catching the most fish. For dinner, a private chef cooked the fish we caught. With homemade bread, dinner was amazing! And for desert we ate ice cream sundaes with home-made chocolate syrup.

The day at the ranch was really fun. As we left we saw a family of whitetail deer. After a long day we headed to our hotel in Billings, Montana for a much needed shower and rest.

Our Group of Riders



The Yellowstone River



The Group at the Ranch



Day 11 - Thursday, July 8th

Today was another day of long distance travel. Our route for today began in Billings, Montana and ended in Bismarck, North Dakota. There were a couple of significant stops we made along the way. One stop was to the Welcome Center in Beach, North Dakota. This Welcome Center is a mile or two away from the state line between Montana and North Dakota. The official time we crossed the State Line was 2:32pm (Mountain Time). North Dakota contains two time zones. The team had to switch to Central Time shortly after we entered the state. Another stop we made was to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This park has a landmark called the "Painted Canyon". It is a beautiful series of exposed rock that are "painted" with different layers of sediment.

We stopped at the Golden Corral Restaurant to eat dinner and we finished the day with swimming at the Comfort Inn Hotel.

The Tree & Mountain Barren Horizon



Orange Line: Boundary of Mountain Time



The Painted Canyon



Day 12- Friday, July 9th

Today we traveled from Bismarck, North Dakota to Brainerd, Minnesota. The capital of North Dakota is Bismarck and the capital of Minnesota is Saint Paul. We passed by the capitol building in Bismarck, then continued on the road for a long ride to Minnesota. Everyone dined at Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant before we entered Minnesota. The official time we entered Minnesota was 4:08pm. Minnesota, like Montana, is filled with pine trees, rolling hills, and vast grassy plains. We also saw several corn fields, the Detroit Lake, and the Mississippi River, which was interesting. Much of the day consisted of driving through numerous cities. Fortunately, the driving allowed us to see a different part of the United States most people do not get a chance to see.

Capitol Building in Bismarck, North Dakota



One of Many Cornfields



Passing View of the Mississippi River



Day 13 - Saturday, July 10th

Today is Saturday, July 10th. We left the hotel around nine thirty to spend a day at Gull Lake. We arrived at the home of Keith and Nini Sieck. These two are major donors to Eagle Empowerment and were our hosts for the day. Their home was absolutely

stunning and comfortable. The décor consisted of reds, whites, and blues; which seemed pleasantly patriotic. Their adorable dog, Samson, reminded me of the little dog Toto from The Wizard of Oz. Samson loved to lick everyone's face. Their backyard had an amazing view of Gull Lake. The team was in awe as we realized Gull Lake was the biggest "pool" we were ever going to swim in all summer. There was an aqua-jumper atop the water and a motor boat attached to their dock. Mr. Sieck untied the boat and gave us rides around the lake. Some even had the privilege of being pulled, slung, and tossed by the boat as we sat in a rope-attached, sport style inner tube. The inner tube ride was an exhilarating experience! During the fun, the Siecks provided a fabulous lunch and dinner.

The day was concluded with light rain, lightning and thunder. The small storm created a beautiful golden sunset. It was a wonderful day.

Pastor Carol with the Siecks



Sis. Gwen and Ms. Gladys
Preparing to Ride



Mr. Alvarez & Rachel
"Relaxing"



Reporting: Clarence Braithwaite & Floyd Zelaya

Day 14 - Sunday, July 11th

Rachel woke up at 7:20 am to get dressed and ready for the day. Ashley and Garin got up later and did the same. All three were responsible for the devotion today. The team left to go to The Mall of America. Rachel and Ashley both agreed that it was the best mall ever. There was a Nickelodeon Theme Park in the center of the mall. Everyone split into small groups and explored the mall for three hours. After our trip to the mall, we took a long drive out of Minnesota to Madison, Wisconsin. We checked into the Comfort Inn and walked a short distance to Perkin's Family Restaurant for dinner. Now the team is in their rooms, getting ready for the next day.

Nickelodeon Universe Theme Park The Mall of America Fountain in the Mall of America



Day 15 - Monday, July 12th

We arrived at the National Historic Cheese-making Museum in Monroe, Wisconsin and was met by tour guide, Mr. Jim Glessner. This man knows cheese! He was amazing and knowledgeable about cheese-making. His friendly nature allowed everyone to "connect" with his passion.

We learned that Green County, which contains the city Monroe, was at one point the Swiss cheese-making center of the United States. The building that house the museum was a train depot, built in 1888. The building was purchased from the State of Wisconsin for one dollar and moved ten blocks from its original location. This undertaking cost \$17,000.00.

Following the tour, we tasted samples of Wisconsin cheese. Mr. Glassner gave a quiz at the conclusion of his presentation. When students failed the quiz, Sis Joyce gave the correct answer. Mr. Glassner awarded her with an autographed copy of a book he wrote.

We traveled a short distance southeast into Illinois en-route to our hotel near Chicago O'Hare Airport. We ate dinner at the Super Chinese Buffet. We check into the Comfort Inn to end this great day.

Jim Glessner And Brother Denzil



Reporters with "Honey Belle"



Welcome to Illinois



Day 16 - Tuesday, July 13th

*"Through great struggles & adversity, character is built." ~ David Peterson
(President Of the Board of Directors - Asa Phillip Pullman Porter Museum)*

We began our day in Chicago with stories of adversity and struggle. The doors of the Asa Phillip Rudolph Pullman Porter Museum were exclusively opened to us and we were not disappointed. The museum celebrates and honors the legacy of Asa Phillip Rudolph and the African American Pullman Porters that served our railroads from the 1920's until the wake of the Civil Rights movement. The Pullman Company grew to great wealth because they took advantage of newly freed slaves. For many Black men, working as a Pullman Porter was more rewarding and less labor intensive than working in the fields of the South.

They could not escape the harsh realities of their job. They endured long hours, little sleep, minimum wages and uncomfortable sleeping quarters. Despite their poor working conditions, Pullman Porters were well respected for their superior service, personal excellence and integrity. Asa Phillip Randolph was a noted figure in Harlem who was into socialism, civil rights and helping Black workers. He played a pivotal role in helping form a union called the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters. Though it took 12 long years for the union of African American Pullman Porters to be recognized. The union was officially organized in 1937, to the delight of many devoted and hard-working Pullman Porters. In a lot of ways, Asa Phillip Randolph and his movement helped pave the way for the Civil Rights movement.

The president of the Museum's Board of Directors, David Peterson shared inspirational words relating to the historical video we viewed and his personal journey in his Chicago neighborhood. Judith, a museum staff person, is a great asset to the museum. She served as our greeter and hostess during our tour. The enthusiasm, passion and knowledge, David and Judith shared, did not go unnoticed. They made our visit meaningful and memorable.

The second portion of our day consisted of a tour of the Willis Tower, formally the Sears Tower in downtown Chicago. The tower is over 103 stories and more than 1,000 feet tall. It took one minute for the elevator to reach the sky deck. The air was filled with excitement and awe. The beautiful view of Chicago's skyline was amazing. Of all the pictures taken, the most daring was of our entire group in one of the 'clear' sky boxes extending over Wacker Avenue. Pastor Carol is truly fearless because it was her idea for all of us to cram into this very small sky box suspended 1,000 feet in the air. Nonetheless, it was a daring and exciting way to end our tour of Willis Tower.

Our day concluded with a lovely drive through notable places in Chicago including: Chicago's financial district, Chicago's Riverwalk, Michigan Avenue, the Wrigley Building, the Hancock Building and Wrigley Field, where the Cubs play. Chicago is a fabulous city

that is picturesque and full of history. Following our Sky Deck adventure, we are glad we lived to tell of our journey. Woo Hoo Chicago!

David, Ms. Judith and Reporters

Entrance to Willis Tower

Skyline of Chicago



Day 17 - Wednesday, July 14th

Today we left our hotel at 3:30am. Rochelle and I (Janell) were very tired, but we were still able to give the morning devotion. Rochelle did the reading and I gave the reflection. Our key word for the morning devotion was "dedicate". We fell asleep on the bus and were awakened to have breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. The Cracker Barrel was located in Battle Creek, Michigan; where most of Post cereals are made.

The next stop in our day was Cornerstone Schools in Detroit, Michigan. We learned all about the things they do at their school. The curriculum includes leaning Spanish and Chinese....in kindergarten! By third grade, the mind is expanded with violin and piano lessons. I wish I can go to that school.

After leaving the school, and passing by the Lions stadium, we drove to the Motown Records Museum. This museum is amazing! Motown Records is home to so many amazing artist. We watched a video about how Motown Records was established and how the "Motown Sound" was created. Part of the museum tour included going into Studio A. This was the *same* studio (from the roof to the floor) that the Jackson 5, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, and so many amazing people recorded their hits.

We had a great dinner at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant and ended our wonderful day with a swim in the hotel pool.

Cornerstone School Sign

Reporters at Motown Records



Positive Sign Found At Cornerstone School



Reporting: Rochelle Tyler and Janel G.

Day 18 - Thursday, July 15th

Today began with a late morning. Taylor and Xenia gave the morning devotion. We departed the Sleep Inn at 11:09am. Our destination was Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We traveled out of Michigan to Pennsylvania We drove through the state of Ohio. We crossed the state line into Ohio at 12:15pm. We took interstate 75 west and 280 south through Ohio. Along the way we stopped at a Service Center that was located on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It was 4:16pm when we entered Pennsylvania. We located our hotel and then had a nice dinner at Applebee's Restaurant to end the day.

The Ohio, US, and Turnpike Flags

View of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Inside Squirrel Hills Tunnel



Reporting: Taylor Nevels and Xenia Zelaya

Day 19 - Friday, July 16th

Today we traveled to a little town by the name of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Once we arrived into Johnstown we visited the Peniel Ministries. This ministry runs a 12-18 month drug rehabilitation program. The success rate of 87% is amazing at Peniel Ministry. With the guidance of Co-Pastor Henry Davis, 8 former addicts (4 men and 4 women) talked about their life and drugs. They testified of the effect drugs had on their health, how they were introduced to drugs, how it effected their family, and how they heard about Peniel. Listening to the people's testimonies was very insightful. They left an impression on us that will make us more resistant to taking drugs.

After this, we ate lunch as a group and drove to Baltimore, Maryland. It was where Pastor Russell and Carolynn Harris of Full Joy Church prepared a great dinner for us to enjoy. Before we went to the dinner, we took a brief walk in the Security Square Mall. This mall looked very similar to the Baldwin Hills Mall back in Los Angeles.

Our dinner came with a nice slideshow that taught us about Baltimore's History. We then received "goodie bags" donated by Monroe State University. Even though our dinner was short, everyone felt at home with Pastor Harris and his family.

Peniel Ministry

Dinner With Pastor Harris

Pastor Carol And Pastor Harris



Day 20 - Saturday, July 17th

Today is July 17th. We left the hotel at 9:15am to begin a full day with our host, Ms. Ulyses Bridges. The purpose for today was to explore the monuments around

Washington D.C. Our first stop was the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. We were there for about 10 minutes, but that was enough time to capture the magnificence of it all.

Our next stop was to the Memorial of the 32nd President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. From the Roosevelt Memorial there is a view of the Washington Monument. The whole scene was beautiful. In fact, driving through Washington D.C. was very beautiful. It was while driving through Washington D.C. that we realized we were near the midpoint of our 42 days of travel. To date, we have traveled through 15 states plus the District of Columbia. Following the Roosevelt Memorial, the Albert Einstein Statue was our next stop. By this time in our day, the Washington D.C. weather had most of the team dripping with sweat!

We went to a house called "The Cedars" for lunch. "The Cedars" is an old house that, has the same elegance of the White House. Three tour guides showed us around, fed us, and gave a presentation. A young man and a young woman told us about their time working at "The Cedars". After our time at "The Cedars", we were back on the bus to finish our memorial and monument tour.

A few minutes drive from "The Cedars" and we toured the Lincoln Memorial and the many people around the memorial. In the center of the main structure stood a granite sculpture of Abraham Lincoln. We took a stroll to two of America's war memorials. The first was the Vietnam War Memorial and then the WWII Memorial. Both had a "serious" beauty about them. Our long walk finally brought us to the Washington Monument. This monument is an obelisk that stands 550 and 1/2 feet tall. We were able to take an elevator ride to the top of the monument and see a bird's eye view of Washington D.C.

We gathered back at the bus spend an hour at the Potomac Historic Riverfront, then drove a little further to have a fun dinner in a mall. Ms. Bridges sure knows how to have a full day!

The Team at the Einstein Statue



The Yard of "The Cedars"



The Lincoln Memorial



Day 21 - Sunday, July 18th

Today was another full day. We were fortunate to attend church at Arlington Community Church with Ms. Ulyses Bridges. Rev. John Janney gave the message. The message for

today was: "The future is Yours to Choose" based on James 4:8 "Draw near to Me and I will draw near to you".

We went to the National Museum of American History after service. We saw the same lunch counter four young men used to carry out the Greensboro Sit-In. February 1st marked the 50th anniversary of this historic event. We also enjoyed an exhibit of the gowns worn by our nations various First Ladies. The first American flag was on display as well.

We walked down the road to The National Museum of Natural History. This museum was full of exhibits that covered the history of the sea, the land, and the animals (including humans) that inhabit the earth. Some exhibits had skeletons and fossils of animals; others had the realistic figures and models. Some exhibits went so far as to have living animals to view.

Ms. Bridges also believes in "education in motion". On the drive back to the hotel, we were given a quiz about both natural history and American history. Many students are studying this evening to complete there assignments. All in all, today was another good and full day.

Greensboro Sit-In Lunch Counter



Michelle Obama's Inaugural Gown



A Lion at the Natural History Museum



Day 22 - Monday, July 19th

This morning, before we entered the bus, we had to turn in the answers to 17 questions Ms. Bridges gave the night before. Once seated, Azadeh and Makayla led our devotion. Azadeh read the devotion and prayed while Makaya gave a reflection on the scripture. When we started to drive, Ms. Bridges gave us a few pointers on proper etiquette. We listened to her as we enjoyed the scenery.

We got off the bus near the Capitol of the United States. We walked straight into the Capitol Building and took a tour of it. The Rotunda, the space underneath the dome, was beautiful. We were able to sit in the senate gallery and listen to the Senate in session. Our group was able to visit the House of Representatives gallery. Our last point of this tour was meeting Senate Chaplin Barry Black. Chaplin Black is a good friend of President Barak Obama. He has known President Obama for years. Chaplin Black prayed that we would have a life full of dreams and for safe travel during Youth Tour 2010.

We then went to the Smithsonian Museum of Air and Space to have lunch and view the exhibits. Today was laundry day, so we washed clothes after leaving the museum..how fun! We ate dinner at Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant. It was here that Azadeh and Aerica visited their older brother, Aaron. That is all for today. See you tomorrow.

The Capitol of the United States



Chaplin Barry Black and Pastor Carol



Views of the Air and Space Museum



Reporting: Azadeh Myers and Makayla Morales

Day 23 - Tuesday, July 20th

We loaded the bus with luggage this morning and left our hotel at 8:10am. During our driving, Aerica, Da’Ron, and Sarah led our devotion. Mr. Alvarez dropped us off at the Mall in front of the US Capitol, where we walked and sat for about 30 minutes. We all took a walk to the Rayburn Building.

The Rayburn Building is where the offices of members of the House of Representatives are located. We went to see the representative for South Los Angeles, Congresswoman Maxine Waters. We met with Ms. Waters at little after 10:00am. Ms. Waters talked to us about what she does, how phone calls are handled, and other things related to how she does her job. She gave each of us a packet of goodies before we left. The packet had a calendar and information on how laws were made.

We boarded the bus soon after we left the Rayburn Building. We took interstate 695 towards Norfolk, Virginia. We made a stop at Casa Maya Restaurant in Williamsburg, VA to have lunch. The Mexican food was very tasty. Most of us were full from our entree.

One quick stop at Sam’s Club and we were on the road to Norfolk. Once in Norfolk, we made a quick stop at Faith Deliverance Christian Center, to our hotel, and back to the church to be seated in time for the evening service.

Bishop Barbara Amos taught Bible Study and gave the Word of God. The Word was based on the three 40-year stages of Moses’ life. After her presentation, we sang hymns, gave tithes and offering, and received the final prayer by Bishop Amos. Our group was directed to the Activity Room where we were treated to a dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, and salad.

After diner we headed back to our hotel. We had to unload the bus. We took all our belongings to our rooms and began to prepare for the next day.

Sam Rayburn

The Front of the Rayburn Building

Chesapeake Bay



Day 24 - Wednesday, July 21st

Today we boarded the bus at 8:30am to depart. We were headed to the morning service of Faith Fellowship 2010 at Faith Deliverance Christian Center. A choir sang and a couple of other ministries shared their talents during the service. After the worship service, we were split into groups. Monae was especially happy to go to children's church because they got a lollipop at the end of their class. All other groups went to different rooms for classes on various topics. Everyone met back in the Sanctuary at 11:45am to close for the morning. We ate lunch and then met in the gym for our basketball tournament. We (Eagle Empowerment) stretched and got ready to win. We played hard and Pastor Carol was our MVP!

We headed back to the hotel after the game for a swim. The swim was short because we had to be at dinner by 5:00pm. We ate at the Golden Corral Restaurant. We returned to Faith Deliverance Christian Center for the evening service. Monae was a bit upset because children's church was not in session during the evening. Today was a tiring day but we all had a great time.

Opening Tip-Off



Halftime Drum Show by "Cadence"



Eagle Empowerment Huddles



Reporting: Rochelle Tyler and Monae Bradley

Day 25 - Thursday, July 23

We left our hotel at 8:30am for today's activities. Today we continue with Faith Fellowship 2010. We arrived at Faith Deliverance Christian Center in time for the 9:00am service. Everyone that was above 14 years of age received a lecture on mental illness.

After the morning service, we went to Hampton University for a campus tour. Our tour guide was named Ashley and she led us around the school while giving us all types of information. She told us that the school was built in 1868. 95% of the campus' population is African American. The school holds one of the oldest museums in the state of Virginia and there is a house that a former slave owner sold to the founder of the school.

After our tour, we went to the Olive Garden Restaurant for soups, salads, bread sticks, and more. When we were done with dinner, we took an hour recess at our hotel and returned to Faith Deliverance Christian Center for the 7:00pm service. The service lasted about two hours. Afterwards we had a nice meal at the church.

The Group with Our Tour Guide Ashley



Construction of Dorms



Sight of Clock Tower



Reporting: Taylor Nevels and Xenia Zelaya

Day 26 - Friday, July 23

Today is our last day of Faith Fellowship 2010. We started the day with the 9:00am "Morning Glory" service, which turned out to be very emotional. Everyone who was in attendance was impacted by the profound word of Christ. Many came to the alter and prayed while many others burst into tears. So far we have had a great experience

attending the conference. We met members from churches in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. Many of the churches, including ours, worshiped the Lord with singing, dancing, praying, and dramatic performances. Many church members performed several miming acts to music (which was a favorite).

At the end of service we left and made a rare trip to Wal Mart. We had a heart-stopping lunch at Applebee's Restaurant. We then spent time in the hotel pool before we got ready for evening service.

Our final service for Faith Fellowship 2010 could not have been better. We praised the Lord throughout the service with more singing, plenty of dancing, and with the Sacrament of the Lords Supper. This last day of Faith Fellowship 2010 is an everlasting memory. I cannot wait until they come visit us next year in Los Angeles.

Dr. Barbara M. Amos
Founder of Faith Fellowship

Faith Deliverance Christian Center
Home of Faith Fellowship 2010



Pastor Sharron S. Riley
Host Pastor of Faith Fellowship



Day 27 - Saturday, July 24th

Today we left the welcoming arms of our extended church family at Faith Deliverance Christian Center. Some of the members from Bethel Church came to meet us on the bus at 9:00am. They wanted to wish us well for the rest of our trip. The wonderful Bishop Barbara Amos also made an appearance and gave us a farewell prayer.

We went along interstate 64 and 95 South through Virginia to Orangeburg, South Carolina. We were able to see a final glimpse of the Chesapeake Bay. We also drove down interstate 258 and were able to see Suffolk, Virginia. We saw a vast amount of cotton gins and large fields of cotton. We crossed over into North Carolina at 11:10am. The Capital of North Carolina is Raleigh.

We made a brief rest stop in North Carolina, then continued driving until we reached South Carolina. It was here that we took a look at the South Carolina Welcome Center. We reached our hotel site at 4:30pm. Our host for the next few days, Dr. Monnie Singleton, was there to meet and greet us. After Dr. Singleton greeted us, we went to the Cracker Barrel Restaurant for a very filling meal.

South Carolina Welcome Center



Simple Map Of South Carolina



"Smiling Faces, Beautiful Places"
South Carolina



Day 28 - Sunday, July 25th

Today most of us went to breakfast at 9:00am. All came together at 10:00am to visit Greater Sidney Park Baptist Church in Bamberg, SC, Dr. Singleton's home church. We were fortunate to receive a police escort to the church once we reach the entrance to the city. Pastor Carol Houston had the honor of giving the morning sermon for their service. After the service, we were treated to a lunch prepared by the members of the church. We did laundry a little later that afternoon. This was followed by a snack at Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant late that evening. The rest of the evening was filled with swimming in the hotel pool.

Greater Sidney Park Baptist Church



Group Photo Morning Service



Everyone Gathering for Lunch



Reporting: Ashley Cornelious, Rachel Stanton and Garin Gray

Day 29 – Monday, July 26th

We began a full day of learning early in the morning. Everyone gathered in the hotel lobby by 8:15am to board the bus. Today was extra special because we had a youth group called True Vine to join us on our adventures!

Our first stop was South Carolina State University. This University is a Historically Black College/University that was founded in 1896. The sole purpose of its founding was to provide African Americans with an avenue to higher education. Before our tour began, we learned that there are seven other Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the

State of South Carolina. Also, many church denominations, such as Baptist or Methodist, fund these colleges.

One building we observed on the University's campus was the Smith, Hammond, Middleton Memorial Building. The names on the building represent the three young men who were murdered during the tragic Orangeburg Massacre. The campus has over 50 majors and covers 200 acres of land. The campus has the tallest building in Orangeburg, Sojourner Truth Hall. With many things to do at South Carolina State College there is a saying stressed by all students, "A.B.F" (Academics Before Fun).

We had a special lunch at the Brookland Baptist Church Conference Center in Columbia, SC. Columbia is the capital of South Carolina. The church has the largest African American congregation in South Carolina. We ate many pieces of the South's famous fried chicken and heaps of delicious peach cobbler! To make things better, a few of the state's dignitaries came to greet us: John Matthews a State Senator for South Carolina, Vernita Dore, US Director of Rural Development for South Carolina, Ann M. English, South Carolina NRCS Conservationist, and Marylin Brooks, Community Liaison Manager of Select Health of South Carolina.

From here we went to the South Carolina Capitol for a tour. We learned that there were three state buildings in South Carolina's history. The third building taking 52 years to complete> There are also 52 steps going up to the entrance of the current building. This building contains the largest one piece stone columns in the United States. We went to see the Senate Chamber. This chamber has a sword that is placed on two hooks. At the beginning of a session, a person places the sword on the two hooks. The sword connects to a circuit which in turn activates two lamps. It is not until the two lamps are lit that the Senate can make laws. The House of Representatives uses a mace for the same purpose. In the middle of the building there is a dome and a series of mosaic stain glass art. One mosaic took about 37,000 pieces to make and other mosaics include real gemstones.

Our day was completed with a quick visit to Dr. Singleton's Medical Center in Orangeburg. We then walked around the Edisto Memorial Rose Garden. This garden was opened in 1929 and holds over 5,000 roses. We returned to our hotel looking forward to tomorrow's activities.

South Carolina State University Brookland Church Conference Center



Edisto Memorial Garden



Day 30 – Tuesday July, 27th

The Eagle Empowerment and True Vine groups continued the joint tour of South Carolina today. First we went to Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island in Charleston, SC. There the park tour guides explained the history of slaves and of the Civil War. The tour guides led us to a beach front where 40% of all African American slaves were unloaded off ships onto American soil. After this tour we had a sandwich lunch at a park next to the Ashley River. There were a lot of flies and squirrels and the lunch was good.

From the park we went to a building called the Old Exchange Building/ Provost Dungeon. The downstairs part of the building was a dungeon where the British kept pirates and whomever they thought was a threat. At one time the dungeon was used as a storage room for imported goods. The basement floor was the "Exchange Floor". People came to this floor to buy, sell, or trade goods that were stored in the dungeon or other places. Upstairs contained the Ballroom. George Washington had a couple of parties in that room.

We walked a few blocks down from the Old Exchange Building to a building called the Powder Magazine. As the name implies, the building was used to hold gun powder. In front of the building were cannons that belonged to King George III. The walls on the sides of the building were built three feet thick to prevent widespread damage from an

explosion. From here we went to the local marketplace to walk around for thirty minutes.

The last activity of the day was to visit Magnolia Plantation & Garden. This is now the oldest garden in the US and at one point was a plantation that used slaves to operate it. Dr. DJ Tucker told us, with great passion, how African Americans, with their expertise on rice, agriculture, construction, and a lot of other things gave South Carolina the foundation to become wealthy. The tour ended with hot dogs, chips and cookies in the Carriage Room. We got back to our hotel around 9:45pm. It was a long and educational day.

"Prisoners" of The Provost Dungeon



Rice Field at Magnolia Gardens



Fort Moultrie



Day 31 - Wednesday, July 28th

Today we departed the hotel at 8:30am. We were headed to Savannah, Georgia to see the First African Baptist Church. This church is the oldest continuous Baptist Church in America. The building was built in 1773. It took four years to build and it was done at night, by the hand of African slaves. The bottom floor of the church was part of the Underground Railroad. There were holes in the floor that were in the figure of an African prayer symbol called the Congo-Cosmogram. The holes were shaped so that people would see them as prayer symbols and not air/food/water holes. At the end of

slavery, the underground pathway that ran through that church was hidden and has not been found. The balcony of the church was special because it has pews that has "Cursive Hebrew" engraved by the fingernail of the slaves who built the church.

From the church we walked to the Historic Savannah Riverfront. There were lots of nice shops. Pastor Carol allowed us to browse a candy store and buy big bags of candy! We had to hold onto our candy until after our lunch at Cracker Barrel. After a few more hours driving, we made it to our hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. We ended our day by with time in the pool.

First African Baptist Church Historic Savannah Riverfront Front Door of First African Baptist



Reporting: Rochelle Tyler and Monae Bradley

Day 32 - Thursday, July 29th

Today we left the hotel at 9:15am. We sang Happy Birthday to Sarah. She is 26 years old today. We needed ice, so we made a stop to at Sam's Club before we started our journey. Unfortunately the Sam's Club was closed. We kept on driving to our final destination. We drove over a newly restored bridge called "The Bridge of Lions" in St. Augustine, Florida. We traveled through Daytona Beach and finally made it to our destination of Orlando, Florida. We made a quick stop at the hotel before continue to the Magic Kingdom of Disneyworld. We had a full and fun day.

The Magic Kingdom

Nighttime Fireworks

It's Small World



Day 33 - Friday, July 30th

Today continued the 2nd day of our visit to Disneyworld. We explored Epcot Center. The Epcot Center consisted of two part. One part emphasizes the land, sea, and space. The other another showcase many countries. Many of the rides were simulators that put you through car crash test, rocket travel, mid-air flight. These activities were extravagant.

The park allowed us to explore the nations of Germany, Italy, Mexico, France, Japan, Canada, China, Holland, Morocco, and the United States. Each "nation-town" came with a restaurant that featured that countries food. The Epcot Center is more diverse in comparison to the Magic Kingdom. It helps you learn about your nation and about other nations as well.

There is not a lot of rides for younger children, but that does not take away from the great experience. The attractions and exhibits help build one's knowledge of the world around them. The way each nation was accompanied with their food, construction, music, and culture added to the authenticity of the experience. Our time at the Epcot Center was no doubt enjoyable.

"Past" Family of the Future



The Spaceship Earth Pavillion



Group by the Sea Gallery



Day 34 - Saturday, July 31st

Today we left our hotel at 10:00am. In Orlando, the heat was scorching. The humidity was binding. Luck for us, we were headed to early day Jerusalem. Our trip to the Holy Land was enjoyable. There were lots of shows that taught many of the Bible's history. Our ticket also included a nice lunch. After visiting many shows, we all gathered together to see a dramatization of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It was a moving enactment. And in the last few moments, the sky opened up and rained upon all of us. It was as if God was crying tears of joy from the performance.

We headed to Chili's Restaurant for dinner and stopped by a gift shop to end our day.

The Streets of Jerusalem



Jesus and the Crucifixion



The Garden Tomb



Reporting: Clarence Braithwaite and Floyd Zelaya

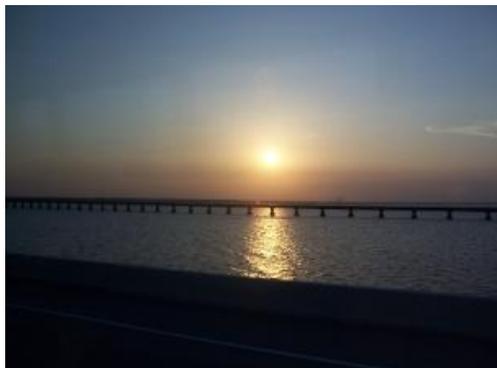
Day 35 - Sunday, August 1st

Today we left Orlando, Florida and headed to Pensacola, Florida. The driving took up most of our day today. Along the way we met heavy rain, lightning, and thunder. We stopped to have an early dinner at the Ole Times Buffet. We made it to our hotel in Pensacola around 8pm.

Blackwater River



Sunset at Mobile Bay



Day 36 - Monday, August 2nd

We started our day with a trip to the laundry mat. While the chaperons were washing clothes, the students were on the bus reading Psalms 135 & 136 and doing other assignments for the morning. When the washing was completed, we headed back to the hotel. We were given thirty minutes to pack all our clothes and report back to the bus. We departed Pensacola, Florida during the afternoon and headed to New Orleans, Louisiana.

As we made our way to Louisiana, we drove through two states: Alabama and Mississippi. It did not take long for us to go through those states; an hour and a half at the most. Pastor Carol gave a test to the students to see if we could identify the 48 States on the continent of North America (Alaska and Hawaii were not included). It was agreed that whoever got the highest score would be able to order whatever they wish for dinner until we arrive home. The student with the lowest score would have their electronics taken away until we arrived home. When the scores came out, everyone was excited because one of the youngest participants on the tour got the highest score of 47 out of 48, Da'Ron Turner.

We went to O' Charlie's Restaurant before we received our test. This Restaurant had some of the best food we ever tried on the trip. We stayed there for a long time, then we were on our way to our hotel on Canal Street in New Orleans. Before we made it to the hotel, we saw a large battleship docked by the bay. We also saw a B52 bomber airplane.

We took a walk down Canal Street to the River Walk, shortly after we arrived at our hotel. It was a ten block walk. As we strolled past the Marriot Hotel, Pastor Carol introduced us to Mr. & Mrs. James (Lorna) Shelby who are donors of Eagle Empowerment. They live in Orange County California. We took pictures and did some "bungee jumping" while we were at the River Walk. As reporters for the day, we both tried the bungee jumping. Azadeh Myers came in first place for the most back flips. Makaya Morales came in second. We crossed a band on the way back to the hotel. The music was "cracking"...that is to say, their music was very good!

USS Alabama Battleship



Streets of New Orleans



New Orleans Riverwalk



Day 37 - Tuesday, August 3rd

Today we left the hotel at 9:30am to visit the World War II Museum. The exhibit talked about the origin of the war and how life was during WWII. Some exhibits had personal

accounts of soldiers in the war. A theatre next door to the theatre had a 4-D movie outlining WWII. They made the movie experience more realistic by using lighting, sound effects, and props. We went and explored the museum for another hour after leaving the movie theatre.

We left the museum and when to a nearby Chili's Restaurant for dinner. After dinner, we took a long drive from New Orleans to Houston, Texas. This drive took the rest of our day. We did not arrive at our hotel until 9:40pm. We were able to go swim that night, but only when we had our journal up to date and had most of our Student Evaluation assignment done.

WWII Museum Entrance



A Front Page from WWII



Tanks Used in WWII



Reporting: Aerica Myers and Da'Ron Turner

Day 38 - Wednesday, August 3rd

Our day began with a late morning. At 11:00am the team gathered at the bus. Rochelle read the daily devotion and Janel gave a reflection based off Romans 8:37. Today our destination was San Antonio, Texas. On the way to San Antonio, we stopped at Marie Calendar's Restaurant for an early dinner.

We arrived into San Antonio and one of the first sights we seen was the Alamo. The visit to the Alamo was very educational. We learned a lot about the history of Texas. The Alamo is mainly known as place where the people of Texas fought for 13 days to gain independence from Mexico.

Across the street from the Alamo were the Guinness World Record Museum and a haunted house attraction. We went through the Guinness World Record Museum and learned a lot about world records (The biggest hands on record are 12.5 inches long!) We went to the haunted house after the museum. It was dark and people were popping out of places. It was very scary!

We ended our fun day at the Alamo with some snow cones. We went to our hotel to swim and rest.

The Alamo



Reporters for the Day



Inside of the Alamo



Reporting: Rochelle Tyler and Janel Gray

Day 39 - Thursday, August 4th

Today was one another travel day that would take us from San Antonio, Texas to Las Cruces, New Mexico. We left our hotel at 8:00am. We rode down interstate 10 west and took many bathroom breaks. We stopped in Van Horn Texas to have lunch at McDonalds. We arrived to Las Cruces, New Mexico after eight hours of driving. Everyone was happy the driving was over. We left our hotel at 7:15pm to have a meal at the Village Inn Restaurant and returned to the hotel to rest.

Measurements From Sonora, Texas

From This Point To		West
Ozona		31/Miles
Sheffield		72/Miles
El Stockton		144/Miles
Van Horn		268/Miles
El Paso		394/Miles
Odessa		168/Miles
Carsbad N.M.		293/Miles
Yuma Ariz.		800/Miles
Angeles Calif.		1130/Miles

Team stretching at John Billings Roadside Park



Entering New Mexico



Reporting: Taylor Nevels and Xenia Zelaya

Day 40 - Friday, August 6th

Today is the 40th day of Youth Tour 2010. We are close to completing the 42 day journey. We started the day where we left off; Las Cruces New, Mexico. We were met at our hotel by Ms. Kelly. She was the main host for our campus tour of New Mexico State University.

Ms. Kelly is an assistant president at NMSU. She was the main tour guide, but not the only guide. There were teams of students and teachers that helped us along the way. They all shared important information about NMSU. This college was founded with a land grant in 1888. It currently has 18,497 students enrolled. The school's mascot is called the "Aggie" and the school colors are red and white. NMSU is also a Hispanic Serving Institute, similar to a Historically Back College/University.

Our tour was very interactive. For the agricultural department, we took a walk through their campus farm. We saw a lot of sheep and cattle, even some cows that had "ports" to allow farmers or researchers to stick their hand into the stomach of the cow. We also had Dr. David Richman came and give us a very cool lecture about spiders, moths, beetles, bees, grasshoppers and other bugs. In our tour of the physics department, we saw examples of electricity, magnetism, and light. We went down to the Geology department and were able to shoot lasers at rocks for analysis (the technical name is laser induced breakdown spectroscopy). The Creative Media department was really fun because they set up a movie scene and had some students from Youth Tour act in their own movie. We then went to the campus motion capture lab to see how motion capture works. After all these activities we went to lunch.

Went took our bus down the road to walk through the Stan Fulton Athletics Center. One interesting fact we learned about NMSU is that it is the only campus to broadcast its football games in three languages: English, Spanish, and Navajo.

Overall, our tour of NMSU was the best campus tour we have had yet. Once we left the campus, the rest of the day was spent driving to Phoenix, Arizona. We stopped in Tucson, Arizona for dinner at Coco's Restaurant then continued driving until we got to Phoenix. Our 40th day of travel had come to a close.

NMSU Agricultural Department

Dr. Richman Showing some Specimens



Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy
Introduction



Day 41 - Saturday, August 7th

Today is the second to last day of the tour. On this day, we left our hotel at 10:00am to make our way towards San Diego, California. It was a long drive. We stopped at a Love's truck stop in Yuma to use the restroom. Along our drive we came within eyesight of the wall that separates the United States from Mexico. We even went through a couple of Border Patrol checkpoints. We made it to San Diego late in the afternoon and had a special dinner at Outback Steakhouse. At our hotel, the whole team of Youth Tour 2010 was called to a special meeting. Many of us shared our thoughts and feelings about the Tour. Some people were fighting the tears as they expressed how much they enjoyed it. We then went back to our rooms with hearts moved and spirits anxious to make it home.

All Star Chaperons



Wall Between U.S. And Mexico



Crossing Into California



Reporting: Clarence Braithwaite and Floyd Zelayas

Day 42 - Sunday, August 8th

Total Miles Covered: 9,663

So today is the last day of Youth Tour 2010!! We have Come a long way. Starting in California, going to the other side of the country, and all the way back to California. We saw innumerable sights. This trip included many sights such as Allensworth and First African Baptist Church. It has truly been a blessed, wonderful experience. Now that we are back home, all we can do is praise God!

The Way Home



Streets of L.A.



The Welcome Committee



Reporting: Ashley Cornelious, Rachel Stanton, and Garin Gray

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