

**ACTION Ventures**

**Reflections on my  
Team & Ministry**

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The following are first person accounts or testimonials of what team members learned, experienced and witnessed while serving on one of the ministry teams of ACTION Ventures, the training division of ACTION Canada. These are listed according to the year each team member was on a team. Some are edited for purposes of clarity.

## 2013

Our trip to Rwanda was a blessing, a challenge and a chance to learn new things: about myself, God and others. The whole time we were in Rwanda I was constantly overwhelmed by God's love. It was so clear He had a plan for us there. When we would go minister to widows or visit a street children school, God's love nearly drove me to tears. I was reminded of the old hymn "The Love of God":

*Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry,  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky.*

Throughout our time in Rwanda, I would learn one aspect of God's love which opened up more things about Him. I will never stop being in awe of the love of God.

I made many friendships in Rwanda, especially at the YWAM base. There was one girl, Peace, who runs the administration at the base's primary school, who was of great encouragement to me. One time when I was walking past her room, she called me in to talk for a few minutes. She wanted get to know me better and asked me to share my testimony. After sharing, she encouraged me greatly with her words of how she saw God using me and the gifts and skills I had. It amazed me once again how quickly someone you don't know can become a dear friend because we are connected by Christ. He is our common bond.

Because of many schedule changes, we had a lot of prayer ministry during our time in Rwanda. In the past, sometimes I had looked at prayer more as an obligation; something I need to do because I'm a Christian. But I was reminded, through our hours of prayer, that intercession is a great ministry. It is not the least I can do for someone; it is the most. I now see prayer more as an honour and a privilege. I may not be able to physically buy someone a home or pay for their much needed surgeries, but I can pray for them. Prayer needs to be my first thought, not my last resort.

As I get back into Canadian living, I'm challenged with the thought, "so what?". I went to Rwanda, was used by God and now I'm back in Canada. It's easy to look at it as two different worlds; there and here. But just because I'm not in Rwanda anymore doesn't mean the ministry stops. I can still pray and am

asking God in what ways can I continue to minister to my brothers and sisters in Rwanda though an ocean separates us. I am excited to see what opportunities arise in that area.

Kimemie Roszmann  
AV1 PRBI Rwanda Team  
May 2013

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## 2014

Over the course of these 9 months, I learned a lot about my identity in Christ. Being on a team with people whom I didn't know, didn't share a lot in common with, and doing things I had never done before left me disillusioned at first. The ways I identified myself in Canada no longer applied. I felt distant from my team and the people we were ministering to because I felt we couldn't understand each other. Then the really obvious hit me: we were all Christians with a desire to serve God. I realized I didn't nearly put enough stock in my identity as a follower of Jesus. This challenged me to focus more on my relationship with God and not my other interests and friends back home. After I realized that, team ministry was much easier. God worked through me and the team in ways I wouldn't have expected. There were still hard times, but they were all worth it, I'd say. It was an incredible 9 months.

Jeremy Fehr  
June 2014  
Bridge 1 India/England/Germany Team  
2013-14

The past 9 months have been happy, sad, exciting, tiring, intense, and most of all amazing! Being able to go around the world sharing the gospel has been the biggest growing experience for me in my faith ever. It has been an amazing opportunity to serve God with my talents, as well as see how God can work through people in so many different ways around the world. I have broadened my view of culture, humanity and God. I would recommend this program to anyone who is willing to serve God. Whether you think it or not, God can, and will, work through you. Just do it!

Stephen Gobeil  
June 2014  
Bridge 1 India/England/Germany Team  
2013-14

Through this program I have learned a lot about the church around the world and how it operates in different cultures. I have learned how people from different places, different worldviews, different levels of education, different levels of material wealth and people of different cultures can be unified under Christ. Learning this, of course, came with a cost. There were some very tough days and weeks, but I think the news of God's love being spread, in addition to my personal growth in knowledge, was worth the struggles and trials. It's not "fun", but rarely does a good thing come easy.

Mark Hodgman  
June 2014

Bridge 1 India/England/Germany Team  
2013-14

This has been a crazy year. From learning to be with the same people for 9 months to travelling to foreign places, there's definitely a lot of lessons to be learned. Through the ministry we got to be a part of and the people we met along the way, I've learned a lot about the work God is doing in the world and how He is willing to use me. I've also learned a lot about myself and the way God has made me to excel in certain areas and other areas I need to work in. This trip is also a study in cultures. Learning how to relate with people from another culture and understanding why we develop certain world views was a big part of this year.

Shad Hodgman  
June 2014

Bridge 1 India/England/Germany Team  
2013-14

The fact that this team exists at all and was able to reach over 11,000 children in India is a miracle! Who would think that two or three people would make that kind of impact? In fact, none of the three of us even expected to go to India – Rachel and I initially inquired about Peru and Kimmie was a last minute addition. However, God used us in big ways. I expected to need to trust God as I overcame jet lag, homesickness, and culture shock, and I certainly did. But my biggest moments of relying on Him came from something simple – water. As we went from program to program, we braved monsoon season. As silly as it is, I hate being wet from the rain! Many times I prayed to Him and trusted for a positive attitude and strength to get through the day, and He listened. One morning, I woke up so dehydrated, but upon entering the car, realized I'd forgotten my water bottle. Just as He takes care of the flowers in the field, God provided drinkable water at two of the three schools we performed at. He certainly takes care of His children!

It is hard to believe – and very humbling – that God uses me to do His work. During the trip, students went from apathetic to intently listening, at the assembly by obligation to in tears because of the greatness of God. He gave me words to say when I had none, and strength when I'd nothing left to give. My trip to India forced me to trust God in ways I'd never needed to before, strengthening my relationship with Him and renewing my passion for serving others and doing God's work.

Katie Auger  
Summer 1 India Team  
July 2014

I was not sure what to expect when I accepted the invitation to go to India this summer. I had so many good people help me a lot with the challenges I would face. It was such a blessing to be on a team with such amazing women. It was a blessing from God that we never fought with each other even once! It was a blessing to be able to share our faith with each other and why God brought us to this team. God was with us and protected us on our flight to and from India. It was also a blessing to be able to be a part of our Indian hosts', Roy and Anu Joy, ministry and see God work in their hearts. When Roy asked us to do our first program, we said yes willingly even though we were tired from the long flight.

As we were doing the program, we could see three girls were crying. We could tell that the program had an impact on their lives. I will always remember that. Another time I saw God at work in me was while I was feeling sick during one of our programs. It was my turn to go on stage and talk to about 600 people in the audience. But it felt like there was a string attached to me trying to pull me back from going on stage (like the devil trying to discourage me). So I prayed to God and then all of a sudden it felt like God was pushing me on to the stage. I praise God that I was able to do it even though I was feeling sick! God has opened my eyes and showed me so much during this trip. I've been so blessed by His work and grace in my life.

Rachel Lilly  
Summer 1 India Team  
July 2014

It was such a blessing and encouragement to go back to Mumbai and to see some of the friends I made the first time I was there. It was especially encouraging to find that a friend who had accepted Christ 5 years ago (when my first team was there) is still growing in her faith.

God has used this experience to remind me of His greatness and how He works in all situations. When we arrived at one school for a program, we were told that because of monsoon season, there was no place to have an assembly. Instead, our program was to be mainly audio (except for students lining the stairs where the mic was), since there were speakers in each classroom. Throughout this unique program, it was clear that God was right there touching hearts. The students we could see had such transparent faces, some with tears in their eyes. God is at work even when unexpected things come up or we have no idea how things will turn out; what a promise!

Yes, it was a small team, of girls no less, in India. But God blessed this small team filled with willing and open hearts and used us for the furtherance of His kingdom. Because there were small numbers, there were some extra challenges and obstacles, but that doesn't stop God from working in great ways, as long as we choose not to allow those things to stop us either. We serve a faithful Lord and Saviour!

Kimberly Roszmann  
Summer 1 India Team  
July 2014

**2015**