

# KEATS CAMPS AROUND THE GLOBE



A number of Keats summer staff from 2010 chose to join with missions organizations in 2010-2011 and serve in a variety of ways in countries around the globe. We would like to update you on some of their stories!

Caity Wright, Spencer Robins, and Julia Smyth all joined Outtatown, a missions organization associated with the CMU. Aleksi Mattlar joined YWAM and traveled to Australia, where he ended up helping with flood relief as parts of the country strove to recover from severe flooding. Iona Wray traveled through a number of countries, however on the way she stopped for a protracted stay at Joybells Orphanage, a ministry in the name of Jesus for orphans in India.



Spencer Robins



Julia Smyth



Iona Wray



Caity Wright



Alexi Mattlar

I just left India after four months, three of which were spent teaching in Joybells Orphanage about 5 hours north of Delhi. The school is home to 62 amazing children who are either orphans, or are from difficult backgrounds. Many of them are from Ladakh in the north of India and are from very remote villages. During my time there I was teaching anything from nursery to grade 6 English, History, and Science as well as spending a lot of time just hanging out with the kids and trying to be a friend to them through our actions. At Joybells we hoped to show the kids the love of Jesus.

*Iona Wray*

This past year I was blessed to be a part of Outtatown, a discipleship program out of CMU that altered my life in ways I don't think I'll be able to fully understand for many years. "Knowing God in truth and relationship; knowing yourself in personality, character, abilities and gifts; knowing the world in its beauty, diversity and pain" is Outtatown's slogan. Along with 33 other students and leaders we started off the year in various places in Western Canada, participating in incredible classes, service projects, and adventures, all the while strongly bonding. The theme of "beauty in the brokenness" started on our second week during a canoe trip and continued all the way through second term when my group, Site 2 South Africa, travelled to one of the most beautiful and broken places in the world. There, we fell in love with not only the breathtaking landscape but also the awe-inspiring people and their cultures. I have never met so many whose hearts are so full, even when their situations seem so dim. Those moments, though they were tough to step into at first, ended up being the memories I will hold onto for the rest of my life. I'm no longer as afraid to step out knowing that God's there beside me, excited to see my reaction to the new adventures He's planned. I know Spence and Julia would agree with me that this was a year that we will never forget :)

*caity wright*

While doing a DTS (Discipleship Training School) in YWAM Townsville this year, God has shown me how huge he really is and that he is a good God. During the DTS we did 10 weeks of lectures that really challenged the way I thought about God and life previously. While on our 9 week outreach we ran school programs, youth groups, fed the homeless, provided flood relief, and ran backpacker events all over Queensland. The greatest thing about coming here has been seeing God change people's lives for the better everywhere we went. Through all of this, I'm happy to report that God is alive and moving all over the world.

*Aleksi Mattlar*

I spent 8 months with Outtatown, being stretched, challenged, expanded and transformed in ways I never expected to be. Beauty in the brokenness was a theme interwoven in every project, class and experience. One semester was spent exploring Canada. Appreciation for the wonder and creativity of God contrasted with issues such as homelessness and addiction that so often are forgotten about and ignored. I then spent three months in Guatemala living in a family and learning a language pushed me out of my comfort zone. I now rejoice in the connections that can be made between people who seemingly have very little in common simply because they share the same loving creator. Through the lives of the people I met, their stories of pain, of joy and of faith I caught glimpses of a Jesus of unmatched compassion and of grace. The contrast of affluence and poverty, brokenness and beauty, Canada and Guatemala, helped me get a global perspective and prepared me for the life long journey of finding out where I fit in this complex, broken, wonderful world as a fellow human being and follower of Jesus.

*Spencer Robins*

I will forever remember my experience on Outtatown. Not only did I meet lifelong friends that share the same love for Jesus, but I found God shaping me in ways that I could never imagine. I found my eyes were opened to many things in Guatemala. I learned so much about a culture and a people that never seemed to strike me as interesting. God lead me towards this program and now I have experienced a journey I will never forget."

*Julia Smyth*