

Project Timothy: The First Year

C.H. 331--Prof. Brenner

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"Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey" (Acts 16:1,3). "To Timothy my true son in the faith: Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 1:1; 4:12). During Paul and Silas' second missionary journey, a young man joined them. His name was Timothy. Timothy became an indispensable part of Paul's mission team. He traveled with Paul and Silas, learned how to be a missionary, worked with established congregations in a different culture, and according to church tradition eventually became the first bishop of the church in Ephesus.

How appropriate that a new program, initiated during the 1992-1993 school year at Northwestern Preparatory School, be named Project Timothy. "Project Timothy is a program designed specifically to encourage NPS students toward the ministry by giving them an opportunity to participate first-hand in a cross-cultural mission experience" (Preptalk, June 1993). The program has encouraged young people to serve in the full-time ministry just as young Timothy trained to proclaim the gospel. Like Timothy, these young men and women learned what it was like to be a missionary. They had the opportunity to work with established congregations in a cross-cultural setting. Lord-willing, many of these young people will continue what the Holy Spirit began in their hearts back in the summer of 1993 by entering the full-time teaching or preaching ministry.

Part One: The Plan

Project Timothy had some rather humble, nebulous beginnings. The idea for the project had been something that Mark Schroeder, President

of Northwestern Preparatory School, had always wanted to do. He felt that NPS students needed exposure to real ministry. What if they had the opportunity to work with a pastor and members of a congregation to bring new souls into contact with Jesus? An additional goal was to place them into a situation where they could work with a culture different from their own--give them a taste of what it would be like to serve as an overseas missionary.

During the 1992-1993 school year, certain factors came together which allowed President Schroeder to consider making his thoughts and ideas become a real project. Aid Association for Lutherans announced a competitive one-time grant of \$10,000 to be used for a special educational or program enhancement project. Suddenly, he needed a plan. He had an entire school filled with teens who were preparing for ministry. He wanted a project which would "make the ministry something tangible, real, not so far off in the distance" (Interview with Mark Schroeder, March 29, 1996). Could he come up with a plan?

Pres. Schroeder set certain criteria which had to be met in order for the project to work. He had to identify a foreign mission field, a field which also used English as its primary language. The mission field also had to be well-established so the students could actually help in some sort of evangelism work. Two of our WELS foreign missions met the criteria: Antigua and St. Lucia, both islands in the ~~ea~~ eastern Caribbean. Pres. Schroeder approached Pastor David Kehl and Pastor Mark Henrich, our two missionaries in Antigua. Pastor Kehl reacted very favorably to the idea for Project Timothy. The missionaries in Antigua had been planning to branch out into another area of the island called

Liberta with a summer Vacation Bible School. A lack of manpower held up the work. If a group of high school students arrived to help, perhaps they could make a start in Liberta. "Project Timothy gave us the extra manpower needed but perhaps more than that--the incentive and the forced time-schedule of not just planning but actually going and doing" (Mark Henrich, FAX to Jon Brohn, April 22, 1996). Pastor Joel Jaeger, who had recently arrived in St. Lucia, was also excited about the project. Pres. Schroeder found the field. Would he be able to find the funding?

AAL loved the idea of sending high school students to help missionaries run a VBS program. The only catch--AAL doesn't give grants for any program involving foreign travel. Pres. Schroeder was faced with a big problem. He could try to fund the program by raiding the budget. Unfortunately, the president of a synodical preparatory school can't do that. Non-budgetary funds might have been the answer, except the amount of money needed to cover the cost was not available. The students could pay the costs, but as students at a prep school, they really had neither the time nor the opportunity to earn money for a trip to the West Indies. The field was ready. "Here were a whole bunch of Timothys that we could send out to a mission field" (Interview with Mark Schroeder, March 29, 1996).

The solution might be called creative financing by some financial institutions today. The students involved were asked to pay \$100 for the project, and some non-budgetary funds were also used. Pres. Schroeder obtained the balance of the amount needed by applying to the Siebert Foundation. He filled out a grant proposal, outlining the project and how much it would cost. Soon after requesting the grant,

the good news returned. There would be enough money. Project Timothy was no longer a dream.

Part Two: The "Timothys"

Project Timothy was more than a fertile mission field and a hunt for funds. The entire concept of Project Timothy was intended for NPS students. Pres. Schroeder hoped to expose some of the students to the Caribbean culture and give them a chance to do some hands-on work in the field where they could actually help the missionaries and not just get in the way. How were they going to find the "Timothys?"

All students were invited to submit an application for this project. Forty-two students submitted applications, which asked the students to describe why they felt equipped to participate in this project and what they hoped to gain from the experience (Preptalk, June 1993).

From this field of forty-two, Pres. Schroeder had to choose eleven students. In order to choose the students, he involved the faculty. A seven-member committee "independently evaluated and ranked the applicants on the basis of approximately 15 different criteria" (Preptalk, June 1993). The applicants were to indicate why they would like to participate, various experiences they had in serving the church, and skills which they possessed (previously teaching Sunday School or VBS, canvassing, playing the piano, etc.). As the committee evaluated the applications, they were to keep in mind the student's maturity, level of responsibility, friendliness, ability to adapt to change, communication skills, but most importantly, the faculty member's gut reaction to the student (Interview with Mark Schroeder, March 29, 1996). The committee primarily chose seniors who had strongly indicated their intentions to enter the public ministry. However, they also chose

students whom they felt were good candidates for the ministry. Some of the students needed a little "nudge" in the right direction, a little encouragement to enter Dr. Martin Luther College or Northwestern College (today they are combined in Martin Luther College).

After the applications were reviewed, Pres. Schroeder was able to notify those who had been chosen to inaugurate Project Timothy. The seven students chosen to work in Antigua were: Jonathan Scharf, Andrew Jacobson, Sara Tollefson, Jennifer Neuman, Jay Bickelhaupt, Nathan Sutton, and David Sulzle, accompanied by Ann Sauer, the housemother. The four students sent to St. Lucia were: Mary Koelpin, Rebekah Learman, Monica Thurow, and Ryan Helman, accompanied by Tutor Dan Voigt.

Why would eleven high school students want to spend their summer involved in Project Timothy? Why not? The idea of spending time on a tropical island in the Caribbean Sea, lying on the beach, and enjoying the sun and sand were all appealing reasons to get involved. Their willingness to follow Jesus' Great Commission is even more impressive. "We would be able to do mission work overseas at such a young age. It was the thing you only dream of, because no one had gone before us" (Sara Tollefson). "I didn't want to pass up a chance of a lifetime to go to another country and experience mission work hands on" (Rebekah Learman). "I thought it would be a great learning experience for me to do mission work" (Monica Thurow). Their hearts were prepared for the work the Lord had laid at their feet. The next step was to prepare for the trip.

The students had little to do in preparation for their trip. Once they paid their \$100 fee toward the costs of the project and procured a

passport or an official, original birth certificate, they were ready to travel. Packing was quite simple--they were encouraged to bring along the coolest clothes they owned. The changes they encountered were not just cultural, but also due to the climate. Summertime temperatures on the islands average in the 90's during the day and 80's at night. The missionaries encouraged the travelers to bring their favorite snack foods (cookies, crackers, chocolate chips, cheese), and drink mixes (Kool-aid, etc.) because they would not be available either in Antigua or St. Lucia. One request from the missionaries was rather surprising. They asked the group to bring coolers of frozen meat since it is so expensive on the islands. In addition to packing clothing, beachwear, and food, they were also encouraged to "bring some items which are unavailable in the islands. If at all possible, bring two bags or suitcases so that we can fill any extra space you have with items for the missions" (Schroeder letter, June 18, 1993). They brought extra food, newspapers, and on the second Project Timothy trip they even transported a steering column for the mission's van.

Part Three: The First Missionary Journey

The Antigua group departed from Chicago's O'Hare airport on Sunday, July 11, and arrived in Antigua later that same evening. The St. Lucia group departed three days later on July 14, and arrived in St. Lucia quite late that Wednesday night. Their primary focus for the next three weeks would be aiding the VBS efforts of Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Lucia and St. John's Lutheran Church in Antigua. The week before the VBS, the students assisted the missionaries as they tried to publicize the upcoming VBS. "We advertised for it first of all. We painted and

put up signs in the area of the island where it was to be held. Then we went door to door handing out flyers and telling people about the upcoming VBS. Then we started getting the craft projects and our lessons ready" (Jonathan Scharf). In St. Lucia, the students' preparations were a little different. "The four Project Timothy staff members augmented Trinity staff members, Mr. Rainsford Smith, Mrs. Elaine Thaman and Mrs. Nalini Alaparathi. Miss Maxine Harvey and Mr. Errol Howe of our mother congregation, St. John's Lutheran, Antigua, flew down to join the staff as the 'Antiguan Connection'" (Mark Henrich, et al., The Caribbean Lutheran, Sept. 1993). The students' primary job at Trinity consisted in acting as teachers' assistants--They helped teach the songs, assisted in making the crafts, and ^a had _^ few opportunities to teach some Bible lessons.

Getting ready for VBS wasn't all work. Both groups used their daily opportunities to spend time at the beach, take pictures, and immerse themselves in the Caribbean culture. "We found time one afternoon to head to another beach--Le Sport. Most of these beaches have huge motels by them, but all have public access. Pastor Jaeger and I went snorkeling around some rocks and saw a lot of tropical fish. We played some beach volleyball, watched the sunset, and then headed home" (Tutor Dan Voigt). They also had time to act like tourists. "We went to several of the 365 beaches. We walked around St. John's (the real city on the island, with all the tourist traps)" (Jonathan Scharf). We aren't told what Timothy did with his free time while he assisted Paul and Silas, but these "Timothys" spent their vacation time wisely.

The second week in the Caribbean brought the beginning of VBS. On an average, Liberta had 102 children each day, and St. Lucia averaged 146 children (the one day record was 162!). The teachers had an astounding number of children in each class--one of the main reasons why the NPS students were so welcome. "In my class I helped teach fifty-two 7,8, and 9 year olds" (Mary Koelpin). Through all the hard work, the message of the gospel was proclaimed and spread.

One of the children showed me his craft. It was a small church made out of paper. He opened the doors and on the inside he had clothes, fruit, socks, etc. He told me: "That is what God gave me." In the middle of the piece of paper was a cross. I asked him what that was and he said, "It's a cross. That is where Jesus died for my sins" (Tutor Dan Voigt).

The impression these NPS students left still remains in the hearts and minds of some of the children. "In one of her letters the girl wrote about how she was so glad we came to St. Lucia and told her that Jesus loved her and died for her" (Mary Koelpin).

Some stories from the students help to show how different their work in Antigua and St. Lucia was from VBS work they might do or the things they might see here in the States. On the second day of the St. Lucia VBS, a young girl who apparently didn't appreciate the Kool-aid on the first day brought her own beverage for snack time. When the class stopped for their break, she asked Mary Koelpin to open her bottle of juice for her. Mary was a bit startled to see her pull out a bottle of Heineken beer! Ryan Helman recalled a three year old girl named Ankleta who always demonstrated her childlike faith. She would go around singing songs about Jesus without even realizing it. During one of the youth group outings, the group in Antigua was camped out on the beach.

One morning they saw a group of soldiers dressed in camouflage, searching the beach area for two escaped prisoners. The group thought they were safe in the hands of these professionals until one of the soldiers dropped his gun in the sand (Jon Scharf).

The two groups spent their last weekend in Antigua and St. Lucia assisting the missionaries with their follow-up efforts, sharing fun and fellowship with the members of the congregation, and doing some sightseeing. They toured the islands, checked out all the tourist hangouts one more time, and even found time to help some of the members pour a cement foundation for a new house. As they looked back on their time in Antigua and St. Lucia the students realized that most of the difficulties of mission work do not have to do with spreading the gospel. Every day living brought the most difficulties and challenges--no water or electricity for several hours at a time, or so much electricity that Rebekah's curling iron set a mattress on fire, potholes in roads, crazy drivers, and other problems too numerous to recount. They learned what it was like to be missionaries in the Caribbean. In the end, no one was eager to leave. The first Project Timothy concluded when the Antigua group returned on Thursday, July 29, and the St. Lucia group flew home on Wednesday, August 4.

Part Four: The Beginning--Not The End!

Project Timothy did not end when these eleven students from NPS returned to life in the United States. After they returned home to work at their summer jobs and prepare for their next year of school, the effects of Project Timothy remained. They learned what life was like in a different culture, and learned to appreciate people who have a

different outlook on life. "I also realized that while our lives in the United States were so busy and filled with worries, in St. Lucia nothing seemed to matter. The people took things in stride. Their big saying was, 'No problem, mon'" (Monica Thurow). They found that fast life and fast food were not necessarily the high points of civilization. Instead of burgers and fries, they learned to eat a form of cornbread called "fungi," salt fish, "ducanaw" (a heavy pastry with brown sugar and raisins), and something called "souce," which used rice and pigs' feet (Jay Bickelhaupt). They remember more stories than there is room for in this paper. Their experience in the West Indies changed the way they looked at other cultures and altered their opinions of themselves.

The original purpose of Project Timothy was not only to expose them to mission work in other cultures, but also to encourage them toward the ministry by helping the missionaries. The seven students with whom I was able to correspond all felt that Project Timothy did that, and more! "It strengthened my desire for the ministry by putting the reality of what a missionary does into perspective for me. Now, I not only want to enter the ministry, but I have an extremely strong desire to become a missionary" (Ryan Helman). "I already had a strong desire to become a teacher. It helped me greatly, however, to understand foreign mission work and the struggles and joy that come with it" (Rebekah Learman). Right down the line, these seven students confessed that their desire to become pastors or teachers was definitely strengthened as they witnessed the pastors' examples.

The congregations' attitudes were also an important influence on these young people. "The religious devotion of the people and Pastor

Kehl and his family really impressed me. All the things we did there seemed unbelievable! The things we talked about with the youth group and did with them made us actually feel like we could enjoy being Christians!" (Sara Tollefson). The Holy Spirit completed each one of President Schroeder's objectives for the students.

Their three week visit afforded them some exposure to the joys and privileges as well as the challenges and frustrations of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a nation and culture far different than their own. They learned that one can survive when the water pipe is dry, the temperature and humidity are high and the electricity is off. May this experience increase in them both the love for blood-bought souls and the commitment to serve our Savior as full-time church workers (Mark Henrich, et al. The Caribbean Lutheran, Sept. 1993).

By God's grace, it has. Nine of the eleven students are currently studying at Martin Luther College to become either pastors or teachers. David Sulzle is studying at Bethany College in Mankato, Minnesota, and Andrew Jacobsen was called to his eternal rest in August of 1995 just before returning to MLC.

Part Five: The Good Deposit

In 2 Timothy 1:14, Paul encourages, "Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us." The Holy Spirit gave those eleven teenagers an incredible deposit of memories and gospel encouragement. The congregations also received a good deposit. Project Timothy had a tremendous effect on the congregations in Antigua and St. Lucia. First, it has increased the members' sense of WELS fellowship. "Being on an island, and the only Lutheran church, our members have very limited contact with fellow Lutherans. It has been a boost for us to meet and work with fellow Christians" (Mark Henrich, FAX to Jon Brohn, April 22, 1996). The

congregation's sense of mission and ministry has been altered--now it is broader and looks into the islands instead of the island.

The presence of your students was surely a blessing to our congregation and the VBS. We were impressed with the attitude and effort of the students of the St. Lucia contingent... Last evening our church council reviewed the St. Lucia phase (of Project Timothy) and unanimously passed a resolution to invite NPS to continue to send students to serve on our VBS staff" (Joel Jaeger, correspondence with Mark Schroeder, August 28, 1993).

Project Timothy also increased the sense of fellowship inside the individual congregations. It is the high point of the year for the teens. They learn that even teenagers can spread the gospel. They discovered that they can be a powerful asset to the congregation, as well as a good example for the adult members. "Project Timothy has been a help for our young men as they see young men from the States doing the Lord's work and are also motivated to take leadership... It helped more of our youth to involve themselves in our congregation's ministry and gave them a real sense of importance" (Mark Henrich, FAX). At the same time, the adults are given a sense of pride. With Project Timothy they aren't receiving mission offerings from the States to spread the gospel. They help to feed and house young people from the States. They have a chance to give and demonstrate their Christian stewardship by caring for the student workers.

From a pastoral point of view, Project Timothy has proven to be a real lift for the congregation. It always comes at a low point in the church year for congregational involvement. "Because of Project Timothy it has become a high point ... more stay involved through the summer, come to regular worship, attend Summer Family Bible nights, and spend more time being involved in needed fellowship opportunities for the

summer" (Mark Henrich, FAX). In addition, it has sparked the interest of many of their young people to pursue the teaching or preaching ministry. "It would be great for them to go to MLC and meet former Project Timothy helpers. It would help them adjust to the culture shock of the States better by having more and more students and people from the States who know of Antigua" (Mark Henrich, FAX).

New souls really haven't materialized as a result of Project Timothy. However, the project has enabled the pastors to identify new areas ripe for outreach. The VBS has also given them "the needed 'soil' preparation to start a ministry in an area" (Mark Henrich, FAX). Since the Lutheran church has not been in the West Indies very long, Project Timothy has helped to spread their reputation. The people look forward to visits from the missionaries and the canvassers. Through Project Timothy's groundwork, Pastor Kehl will begin an ongoing ministry on the southern end of Antigua, work that has been delayed by Hurricane Luis until next year.

The pastors also personally reaped the benefits of Project Timothy:

All of you have been in our thoughts and prayers since you left.... We would have survived our VBS without you, but it would not have been as enjoyable or as effective. We appreciated your willingness to do whatever was asked; to persevere in the work despite what most people would consider to be great hindrances; your joy in sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ; and your enjoyment of the culture and climate of our unique little island (Joel Jaeger, Correspondence with Mary, Monica, Rebekah, and Ryan, Sept. 17, 1993).

Project Timothy is also one of the high points of our year. We have furlough every two years, so the pastor that is here for the summer takes Project Timothy. The rest of the staff is gone...it was usually a quiet time. Project Timothy involves a lot of time and effort but it is really a joy. As a pastor it boosts me--gives my summer better focus. It is invigorating to see the excitement of youth. It helps my wife and I stay in touch

with what American teens are like. It has given our four children an excellent role model of neat Christian behavior. It has broadened our contacts with people from the States and that always helps, especially when on an island and away from these contacts (Mark Henrich, FAX).

In talking to the Prep students and watching them on the "WELS Connection" video it seemed like the trip made an impact on their lives. It made an impact here also. The VBS in Liberta made a name for us there and God-willing paved the way for more ministry activity in that area in the future. The youth here still talk about the Prep kids and all the things they did together. The members got a very favorable impression of our ministry training program. And my children felt they had big brothers and sisters nearby for a time (David Kehl, correspondence with Mark Schroeder, November 8, 1993).

President Schroeder's dream became a reality. With God's guidance, Project Timothy took eleven NPS students and exposed them to the joys, the rigors, even the disappointments of mission work in a cross-cultural situation. While they were in the West Indies, they saw things they had never seen before, understood what it is like to live in a different culture, and gained a greater appreciation of the blessings of their own culture. Luther Preparatory School has not changed its purpose, and will not discontinue Project Timothy as long as funding is available. The 1996 trip will be called "Project Timothy IV." Our fellow Christians in Antigua and St. Lucia are so excited that they have printed t-shirts for the students and chaperones. Over the past three years, several changes have occurred in the program. It has branched out to El Paso, Texas, Panama City, Florida, and even Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Through it all, President Schroeder maintains that Project Timothy is an invaluable tool for training young people for ministry. "To me, it is one of the most valuable things we do because it is directly connected to the purpose of the school. It is not a

frill, not a fluff. It's not just sending kids on an adventure. It's directly related to what we're all about" (Interview with Mark Schroeder, March 29, 1996). Luther Preparatory School is all about training young Christians for ministry. Project Timothy has become an exciting opportunity for LPS students to get their hands on mission work. We praise God for giving his church this good deposit and the opportunity to reach more souls for Christ!

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Appendix

Map, Correspondence, Sources

AMERICAN AIRLINES/AMERICAN EAGLE ROUTE MAP

Florida and Caribbean Region

- ▲ Fort Walton Beach
- ▲ Tallahassee
- ▲ Panama City
- Pensacola
- ◆ Jacksonville
- Orlando
- Daytona Beach
- Tampa/St. Petersburg
- Sarasota/Bradenton
- Fort Myers
- Naples
- Fort Lauderdale
- Miami
- Key West
- Marathon
- Melbourne
- West Palm Beach
- Treasure Cay
- Freeport
- Marsh Harbour
- Nassau
- Governor's Harbour
- George Town

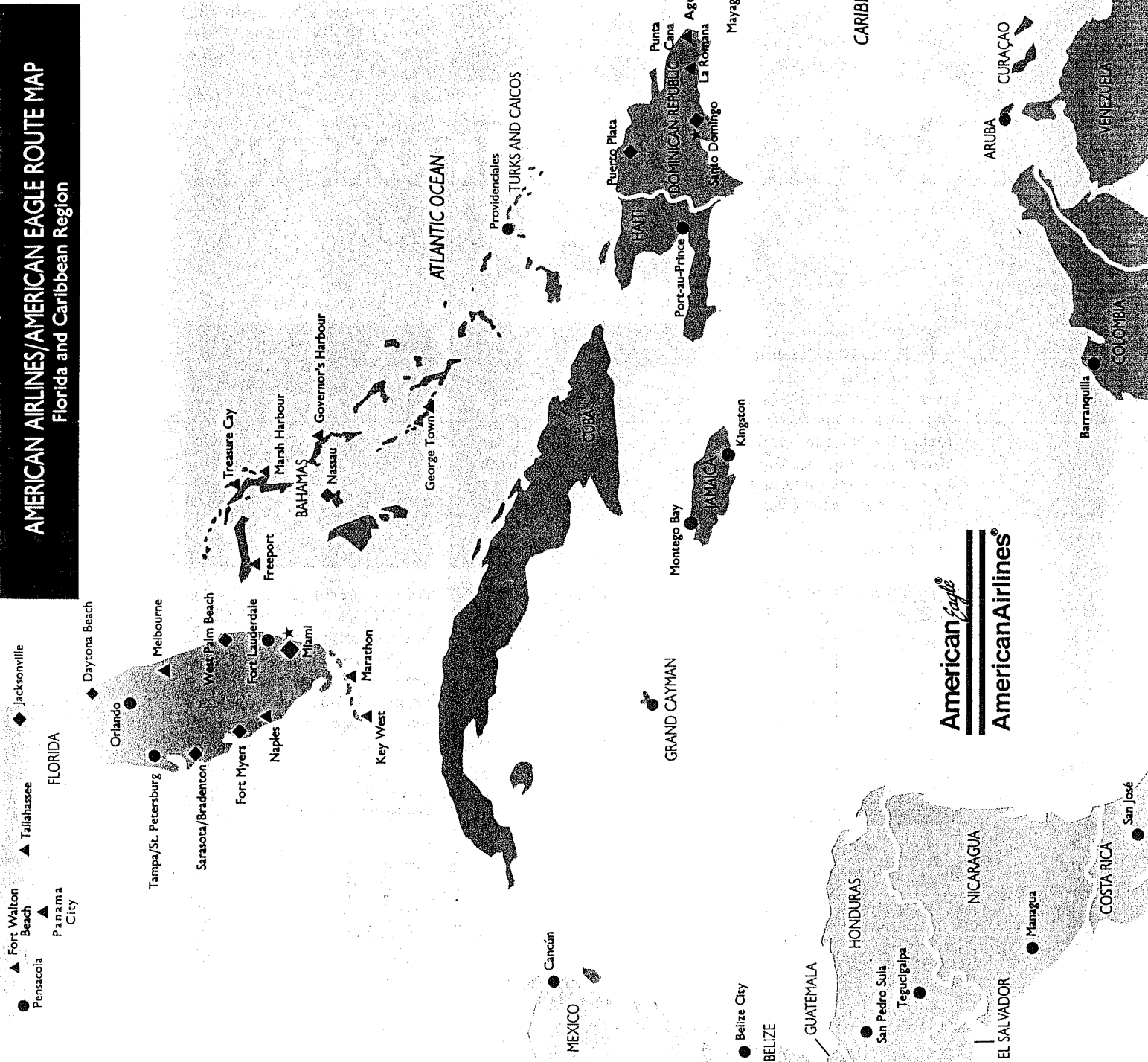
OTHER AMERICAN AIRLINES LATIN-AMERICAN DESTINATIONS

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| ARGENTINA
★ Buenos Aires | ECUADOR
Guayaquil
Quito | PANAMA
Panama City |
| BOLIVIA
La Paz
Santa Cruz | EL SALVADOR
San Salvador | PARAGUAY
Asunción |
| BRAZIL
Rio de Janeiro
São Paulo | GUATEMALA
Guatemala City | PERU
★ Lima |
| CHILE
★ Santiago | MEXICO
Acapulco
Guadalajara
Mexico City
Monterrey
Puerto Vallarta | |
| COLOMBIA
★ Santa Fe de Bogotá
Cali | | |

- American Airlines
- ▲ American Eagle
- ◆ American Airlines/American Eagle
- ★ Admirals Club

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March 29, 1996

Interview with Pres. Mark Schroeder of NPS, now LPS
Transcript of audiotape, typed by Jon Brohn

The idea, originally, came almost by chance. AAL had announced competitive one time (10,000) grant for some special educational or program enhancement project. I had always thought that we'd want to do something to expose our kids to work in the field, esp. into cross-cultural experience. Kill 2 birds with one stone. Mission field with English language, so the kids could immediately feel comfortable with the cross-cultural ministry, exposed to a diff. lifestyle, diff. world, also a personal experience with kingdom work. REsponse to one time program--tried to formulate into a program. Project Timothy--young co-worker of Apostle Paul who Paul took with him on his mission journeys. "Here were a whole bunch of Timothys that we could send out to a mission field."

It turned out that AAL didn't fund the program. Liked the idea, but don't do foreign travel. Tried to find diff. source, applied to Siebert Foundation which funded portion of it, chunk by students, some non-budgetary funds from school. Last two years funding from Kingdom Workers. Idea to try to enhance what NPS was all about, to get the kids interested in and exposed to cross-cultural ministry. Reasons for beginning such a program? That's what the synod prep schools are all about, to keep the goal of ministry in front of the kids, esp. the pastoral ministry.

A lot of school betw. here and the ministry. The more we can make the ministry something tangible, real, not so far off in the distance, the more ways we can do that the better. Project Tim is one of those ways. Want to accomplish? 1) expose a number of students to cross-cultural experience; 2) to give as many students as possible the chance to get hands on work in the field where they would actually be contributing to a mission and helping missions do what it wanted to do, rather than becoming a burden on someone. All 4 places tell us again and again they couldn't do what they wanted to do without the kids from Proj. Tim. Antigua wanted to start VBS in outlying villages, but never had the manpower to do it. This allowed them to do it.

How did it end up in Antigua and St. Lucia? Foreign mission, English speaking. Established missions, esp. Antigua, staff to host and care for them, ongoing mission program they could help with. NPS approached the missionaries, bounced idea off of Dave Kehl, reacted positively, Joel Jaeger same in St. Lucia. All of this sort of happened without a whole lot of vision and foresight. It just fell into place and it has turned out to be a real good thing.

What was involved in the selection process? Ask students to apply, application indicate why they would like to participate, list various experiences, skills they have (VBS, SS, canvassing, piano), faculty committee looks at each appl., rates student on 1) maturity, 2) responsibility, 3) friendliness, 4) ability to adapt to change, 5) ability to communicate, 6) ability to get along with others, 7) most important, gut reaction to the student. We want to be able to send students over who we don't have to worry about, don't have to think twice about, as to whether they will behave or what kind of impression they'll make, kids that will represent the school very well. The committee chose the students who were seniors, strongly indicating their intentions to go into the ministry were given a little more preferable treatment. Although, students on the fence the committee felt were

good candidates for the ministry were also ones we wanted to choose, to nudge in the right way. Since that time, added element of chance. Narrow it down to a few more than they actually take. 20 going, 25 selected and then names are chosen. Kids feel more that it was the lot, instead of rejection. Fac. Comm. of six helped choose. Raise the funds? Comb. students paid about 100 apiece, Siebert, canteen sales, special gifts, kingdom workers.

How did we choose chaperones? First year, limited no. of tutors returning, couple of the tutors who were coming back. Dan Voigt, Ann Sauer. Pres. went to Antigua for first 3 days to see what we were getting kids into. When Ann arrived, went to St. Lucia and met the kids when they flew in for their first 3 days. Gotten more diff. to choose chaperones because more wanted to go, choosing names out of hat.

Problems before or after? NO! Tried to anticipate any problems, travel is the most uncertain and worked out well. No problems to speak of on part of students that they gave or felt. The adjustment went well. Got very close to missionary families and the people of the mission. Still correspondence. In Antigua, with est. congr., missionaries say the highlight of the congr. year. They have even given the project numerals (This year will be Proj. Tim. 4). They have T-shirts printed, very excited, like the publicity in N.L., appreciate fact that we go there because we want to help them in what they are doing. Biggest problem getting funds.

Blessings as the students prepared to go and after they returned? Excitement, honored to be chosen, excited for trip overseas and first plane trip. Coming back, all would say the experience changed their lives. Saw things they had never seen before, understood what its like to live and be in a diff. culture, appreciate what we have here--smooth roads, grocery lines don't take forever. "While they were down there, they learned not to criticize somebody else's culture which is very easy to do, to complain about how slow things are, the kinds of houses people live in, ugly American kind of remarks. They learned not to do that." The commitment to ministry was strengthened. Some weren't sure what they wanted to do beforehand, but came back excited to study for the ministry.

Parents? Rave reviews, appreciation, not a single complaint. How many influenced to pursue full-time work of proclaiming the gospel? All went on to (D)MLC except for Dave Sulzle (Bethany) and Andy Jacobsen (called to heaven in 1995). How much of that was influenced by Project Tim, he didn't know. This group was already a strong group to begin with. A couple (Jenny Newman, Sarah Toll., Ryan) not sure, but helped to reinforce what was there to work with.

Stories about students reactions when selected, or after they returned? Highlight of Pres. year to hear the squeals of delight when he pulls aside students to tell them they've been selected. Also difficult seeing disappointment of those who aren't chosen. Each group comes back with different stories of their experiences.

Changes needed to be made? Areas added (ElPaso, Pilsen) Perhaps branch into an area that isn't strictly speaking--Puerto Rico (also not foreign travel, so perhaps more funding would be available). Need--definite source of funding every year. "To me, this is important enough to

Justify spending budget dollars. To me, it is one of the most valuable things we do because it is directly connected to the purpose of the school. It is not a frill, not a fluff. It's not just sending kids on an adventure. It's directly related to what we're all about." Broaden the numbers available to participate. Pressure from other Lutheran high schools to participate. Problems: funding, number of spots for kids. "Until they find more places to go, we can't really broaden it out too far. I'm selfish. I want my kids here to be able to do that. As much as it would be nice to spread it out, there are other things that other schools can do and do. It's much more handleable when you stick to your own school. Logistics become really tough when you start drawing people from all over the place."

Siebert Foundation: grant proposal, how much it will cost, ask for amount, either give amount or a little less. Siebert doesn't like to do things year after year. That's why they went to Kingdom Workers. Appears that they will keep on supporting, like P.T., one of the types of things KW likes to do, a visible thing that prob. wouldn't get done unless they funded it.

"I think Project Timothy will be one of those things I'll be happy to look back and say, 'That was my idea, and I'm glad we did it!'"
Not the result of some grand vision. Looking at application, what could we do that was different. Played into something he had wanted to do for a long time.

Dear Jim,

April 10, 1996

I'm sure that most of you remember me as Instructor Brohn from your time at NPS. Now I'm back to student life, just like you, and I need your help. In order to graduate, we have to write a church history paper on an original topic. The paper can use only primary sources (no copying from history books or encyclopedias). The topic for my paper is the first year of Project Timothy.

Fortunately for me, all of you who participated also went on to (D)MLC. I need to ask you a favor. Could you answer a few of the questions below, or all of them, and send them back to me? Of course, I could have sent this letter out a long time ago, but I'm pretty good at procrastination. If possible, I need them back by Monday, April 22, or earlier. I know that doesn't give you much time, but I'd appreciate any information you could give me. I'll include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then you can sit down, jot down some answers, drop it in the mail, and I will be forever in your debt! Thank you for any and all of your help!

Yours in Christ,

Jon Brohn

1. Why were you interested in participating in Project Timothy?

I had always wanted to travel & see the world & when I heard about the chance of going to Antigua or St. Lucia, I figured, why not give it a try?!

2. What did you have to do to prepare for your work on Project Timothy before you left?

Basically, just pack. We met w/ a pastor once who described what was happening in the mission there. But we really didn't know what to expect.

3. How did you help with the VBS in either Antigua or St. Lucia?

We advertised for it first of all. We painted & put up signs in the area of the island where it was to be held & then we went door to door handing out flyers & telling people about the upcoming VBS. Then we started ~~making~~^{setting up} the craft projects ready & our lessons. In the week of the actual VBS I taught a class of 9-10 yr. olds & Dave Sulzle & James (who didn't always show up) were my assistants.

4. How did you spend your free time?

We went to several of the 365 beaches - we walked around St. John's (the "most city" on the island - w/ all the tourist traps, etc.), hung around w/ the youth from the beach church youth group, & just relaxed in the sun either at Kohl's or Hendrick's house.

5. What was the food like? Very interesting. They really made an effort to give us a taste of the island. Many of the members took turns feeding us - Sauce (Saus^s) w/ pigs feet, & a variety of other ~~things~~ dishes I can't really remember - some of them were very good. I liked the breads & fruits (esp. guinnops). The food was really an experience.

6. Is there any one person or event that sticks out in your mind? Why?

Immanuel Gordon - This man was the one that stayed in the pastors' houses when they were on Furlough & took care of them. The guys lived w/ him at Hendrick's house. He moved launs for a living & was probably one of the coolest men I have ever met - just genuinely nice. Shomelle Forge - I still write to her - a great Christian who was ~~very~~ fun to be around & had one of the best smiles I've ever seen - I could go on & on w/ these people - each one was so special & so exp.

7. Did your participation in Project Timothy give you the desire to become a pastor or a teacher? Why?

Not quite - but really enhance. I saw how much these people long to hear God's word - It was really refreshing to see that especially coming from a big Milwaukee congregation where that desire isn't always that evident.

8. Do you remember any stories from your trip? (I remember someone telling me a story about why their goats have chains around their necks, but I don't remember who told me that)

How much time do you love? - I could go on & on - so if you want more give me a call - (507) 233-1405 - I've also got a video in scriptbook ^{the chain beads connect to everything}
One of the best stories was when we camped out w/ the youth group on Fryes beach & in the morning there was a group of soldiers in camouflage walking the beach looking for 2 escaped prisoners - as this ragged group of men walked by tactically - one of them just dropped his gun.

9. How did your experience affect you as a Christian teen-ager? What did you learn about yourself or your faith that you didn't know before?

I learned ~~that~~ that there is absolutely no reason to be ashamed of my faith - we should be excited about God's word & show it - The believers in Antigua set an excellent example that are. I think that this experience really opened my eyes & enriched my faith in a big way. I wouldn't trade the Project Timothy experience for anything.

we all felt safe in the hands of these professrs.

Dear Ryan,

April 10, 1996

I'm sure that most of you remember me as Instructor Brohn from your time at NPS. Now I'm back to student life, just like you, and I need your help. In order to graduate, we have to write a church history paper on an original topic. The paper can use only primary sources (no copying from history books or encyclopedias). The topic for my paper is the first year of Project Timothy.

Fortunately for me, all of you who participated also went on to (D)MLC. I need to ask you a favor. Could you answer a few of the questions below, or all of them, and send them back to me? Of course, I could have sent this letter out a long time ago, but I'm pretty good at procrastination. If possible, I need them back by Monday, April 22, or earlier. I know that doesn't give you much time, but I'd appreciate any information you could give me. I'll include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then you can sit down, jot down some answers, drop it in the mail, and I will be forever in your debt! Thank you for any and all of your help!

Yours in Christ,

Jon Brohn

1. Why were you interested in participating in Project Timothy?

I was interested to visit the Caribbean. I also had become interested in how foreign missions worked.

2. What did you have to do to prepare for your work on Project Timothy before you left?

There was little preparations except getting ready for the climate change.

3. How did you help with the VBS in either Antigua or St. Lucia?

Part of the time I was a teacher's aid and the other part I taught the class. I taught bible stories + an art project. I helped with music time + the other art project. We also handed out Flyers prior to VBS.

4. How did you spend your free time?

We spend our free time touring the entire island. We also went to the beach + played beach volleyball. We also shopped at the markets + layed around at pastor's house. We also visited members house for ~~supper~~ supper.

Dear Rebekah,

April 10, 1996

I'm sure that most of you remember me as Instructor Brohn from your time at NPS. Now I'm back to student life, just like you, and I need your help. In order to graduate, we have to write a church history paper on an original topic. The paper can use only primary sources (no copying from history books or encyclopedias). The topic for my paper is the first year of Project Timothy.

Fortunately for me, all of you who participated also went on to (D)MLC. I need to ask you a favor. Could you answer a few of the questions below, or all of them, and send them back to me? Of course, I could have sent this letter out a long time ago, but I'm pretty good at procrastination. If possible, I need them back by Monday, April 22, or earlier. I know that doesn't give you much time, but I'd appreciate any information you could give me. I'll include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then you can sit down, jot down some answers, drop it in the mail, and I will be forever in your debt! Thank you for any and all of your help!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Brohn

1. Why were you interested in participating in Project Timothy?

I didn't want to pass up a chance of a lifetime to go to another country and experience mission work hands on.

2. What did you have to do to prepare for your work on Project Timothy before you left?

Basically nothing. (Packer) We did any work + prep. for VBS once we got there.

3. How did you help with the VBS in either Antigua or St. Lucia?

We weren't the actual teachers, but rather Rachel's aides. We were also in charge of the arts + crafts. I played for the services while we were there.

4. How did you spend your free time?

Beach, beach, beach - We also went on walks + explored the country. One day we took a whole trip around the island. Members invited us over to their house so we got to meet + visit with them. Oh, and we did go shopping too. We all tried ~~water~~ windsailing at the beach, but we all failed miserably.

April 10, 1996

Dear Monica,

I'm sure that most of you remember me as Instructor Brohn from your time at NPS. Now I'm back to student life, just like you, and I need your help. In order to graduate, we have to write a church history paper on an original topic. The paper can use only primary sources (no copying from history books or encyclopedias). The topic for my paper is the first year of Project Timothy.

Fortunately for me, all of you who participated also went on to (D)MLC. I need to ask you a favor. Could you answer a few of the questions below, or all of them, and send them back to me? Of course, I could have sent this letter out a long time ago, but I'm pretty good at procrastination. If possible, I need them back by Monday, April 22, or earlier. I know that doesn't give you much time, but I'd appreciate any information you could give me. I'll include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then you can sit down, jot down some answers, drop it in the mail, and I will be forever in your debt! Thank you for any and all of your help!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Brohn

1. Why were you interested in participating in Project Timothy?

I was interested because I had taught VBS before but this would be a new experience and I thought it would be a great learning experience for me to do mission work. The fact that it would be on a tropical island was pretty appealing too.

2. What did you have to do to prepare for your work on Project Timothy before you left?

We weren't really required to do anything. We did talk to Pastor Wehels before going and found out a little about the island.

3. How did you help with the VBS in either Antigua or St. Lucia?

Mary, Becca, Ryan, and I each worked with one of the members who taught. I helped with the lessons, the art projects, and with learning the songs. I was also able to teach a lesson or two to them. I worked with the older children around 10-12 yrs. old.

4. How did you spend your free time?

Before and after the week of VBS we went out canvassing for a day. During the week we usually spent time at the beach, laying around the house, going out hiking, biking, or jogging, and we were able to go into the city and to the market. At night during the week of VBS we prepared for our lessons and projects for the next day.

Dear Jay,

April 10, 1996

I'm sure that most of you remember me as Instructor Brohn from your time at NPS. Now I'm back to student life, just like you, and I need your help. In order to graduate, we have to write a church history paper on an original topic. The paper can use only primary sources (no copying from history books or encyclopedias). The topic for my paper is the first year of Project Timothy.

Fortunately for me, all of you who participated also went on to (D)MLC. I need to ask you a favor. Could you answer a few of the questions below, or all of them, and send them back to me? Of course, I could have sent this letter out a long time ago, but I'm pretty good at procrastination. If possible, I need them back by Monday, April 22, or earlier. I know that doesn't give you much time, but I'd appreciate any information you could give me. I'll include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then you can sit down, jot down some answers, drop it in the mail, and I will be forever in your debt! Thank you for any and all of your help!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Brohn

1. Why were you interested in participating in Project Timothy? *A chance to go to a tropical island for free (small price) to see how mission churches work. I was interested in discovering out other cultures and a totally different "world".*

2. What did you have to do to prepare for your work on Project Timothy before you left? *I just had to buy new shorts and a few cooler dresses shorts. There really wasn't any special preparations.*

3. How did you help with the VBS in either Antigua or St. Lucia? *In Antigua we canvassed dozens of small villages for a week. We prepared lessons and thought of projects to do. Taught VBS songs to the children and ourselves. Told the children of Jesus Christ.*

4. How did you spend your free time? *That was the highlight of the whole trip. We did lots of swimming. The water was both warm and beautiful. We snorkled at ~~the~~ Blue Water and also went cliff jumping 20-30 ft. We paid 40 bucks to go parasailing. That was awesome. We went to Half Moon Bay, this is really the only place w/ waves, and went body surfing. Ate at an Indian Restaurant. Went sailing and snorkeled at Bird Island. Saw the pillars of HERCULES at English harbor. Went shopping at St. Johns into PLAZA MARIE (a name to hear to)*

Dear Mary,

April 10, 1996

I'm sure that most of you remember me as Instructor Brohn from your time at NPS. Now I'm back to student life, just like you, and I need your help. In order to graduate, we have to write a church history paper on an original topic. The paper can use only primary sources (no copying from history books or encyclopedias). The topic for my paper is the first year of Project Timothy.

Fortunately for me, all of you who participated also went on to (D)MLC. I need to ask you a favor. Could you answer a few of the questions below, or all of them, and send them back to me? Of course, I could have sent this letter out a long time ago, but I'm pretty good at procrastination. If possible, I need them back by Monday, April 22, or earlier. I know that doesn't give you much time, but I'd appreciate any information you could give me. I'll include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then you can sit down, jot down some answers, drop it in the mail, and I will be forever in your debt! Thank you for any and all of your help!

Yours in Christ,

Jon Brohn

1. Why were you interested in participating in Project Timothy?

It ~~was~~ helped prepare me for working with children. A good experience, a fun time. I wanted to get involved in cross cultural work.

2. What did you have to do to prepare for your work on Project Timothy before you left?

There wasn't much to do in preparation, most of these things were taken care of by our supervisors.

3. How did you help with the VBS in either Antigua or St. Lucia?

I helped teach 52 78, +9 yr olds. I handed out flyers before the week started then went along with the pastor to make follow up calls.

4. How did you spend your free time?

We toured the island, went to the beach almost daily. Ate many meals at members houses. Went hiking a few times.

I'm sorry if I didn't answer in the way you had hoped
I must admit I got a little carried away sometimes
I trust all is well to you and your family & your
Dear Sara, hope some of this is good luck & informative.
God's Blessings
April 10, 1996

I'm sure that most of you remember me as Instructor Brohn from your time at NPS. Now I'm back to student life, just like you, and I need your help. In order to graduate, we have to write a church history paper on an original topic. The paper can use only primary sources (no copying from history books or encyclopedias). The topic for my paper is the first year of Project Timothy.

Fortunately for me, all of you who participated also went on to (D)MLC. I need to ask you a favor. Could you answer a few of the questions below, or all of them, and send them back to me? Of course, I could have sent this letter out a long time ago, but I'm pretty good at procrastination. If possible, I need them back by Monday, April 22, or earlier. I know that doesn't give you much time, but I'd appreciate any information you could give me. I'll include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Then you can sit down, jot down some answers, drop it in the mail, and I will be forever in your debt! Thank you for any and all of your help!

Yours in Christ,

Jon Brohn

1. Why were you interested in participating in Project Timothy?

One of the reasons was the thrill of visiting a different country + the Caribbean has always been hyped over. That and the fact we would be able to do mission work over seas at such a young age. It was the thing you only dream of, because no one had gone before us.

2. What did you have to do to prepare for your work on Project Timothy before you left?

Well, not much was on the list. Pastor Woebeck had gone there before + showed us slides + talked to us. A lot was unknown for all we knew it was a land w/ no civilization + we would be in the wilderness. Many of us brought soap + food as long as other necessities for the natives.

3. How did you help with the VBS in either Antigua or St. Lucia?

In Antigua we began by meeting the youth of the congregation who were to do it with us. Then we had daily Bible study + preparation. We would stay up till 2:00 in the morning making signs to post up and the crafts for the day. We went kayaking for a day we would have gone more but the van broke down. Then V.B.S. one + 2 others taught 15-20 11+ yr. olds. We switched off between teaching + doing the craft, but all of us had to know the lesson.

4. How did you spend your free time?

We didn't have much free time it was either doing V.B.S. stuff, helping clean the church or planned activities. Every spare minute we could break away was spent at the beach. Sen + I stayed at a man's house for 2 days + they later took the whole group of us on a sail boat ride. We went on a campout w/ the youth then we toured the island + down town + then. They gave us a trip to the rain forest. We went to carnival one night and a team pageant. On our visit to town we shopped the market + bought souvenirs. The boys + Newman went para-chuting one afternoon. Then we helped paint the school + strip the grounds. We cleaned all the teacher + pastor's houses we had stayed in.

FAX TO: 1 (414) 242-7255
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Attn: Senior Jon Brohn

FROM: 1 (809) 462-2896
Mark Henrich
St. John's, Antigua

DATE: 22 April 1996
 Number of Pages: 2

Dear Jon,

Got your FAX and need to reply today as I'll be out of the country for the rest of the week. Don't have time to give long thought out answers on Project Timothy so I'll just ramble, but hopefully will give you something to use, or at least another source to quote from... I would be interested in receiving a copy of your final paper for our own "archives" in Antigua. You could give a copy to Jon Bilitz as he will be coming down here in June, God-willing.

1) Effects Project Timothy has had on our congregation.

The question has been asked of me, "Is Project Timothy (PT) worth it?" I feel PT is one of those rare projects that actually exceeds everyone's expectations. Definitely "worth it". No doubt, you have already heard how it is worth it from the standpoint of the youth that come here. We also see tremendous blessings in our own congregation from PT. 1) increased awareness of our WELS fellowship. Being on an island, and the only Lutheran church, our members have very limited contact with fellow Lutherans. It has been a boost for us to meet and work with fellow Christians. Friendships have formed, bridges have been built across the miles. It's helped us to be more aware of the church at large. In a nutshell-it has broadened our congregation's vision. 2) it has been excellent for our youth. Antigua has always had a strong youth program, but PT has boosted us to a new level. For most of our teens PT is the high point of the year. Some plan vacations and work schedules around it. The PT VBS (the one held at Liberta,- understand we also conduct our "regular" VBS at church in the city) has been run by the mutual effort of the teens with only 2-4 adults supervising. Quite an undertaking for teens to conduct a VBS of 100-150 children. Been a help also for our young men as they see young men from States doing the Lord's work and they are motivated to also take leadership... (otherwise all too easy to feel it is the work of the ladies) 3) also an effect on our adults. They have rallied to help PT in various ways and take pride in being able to do something for people in the States instead of the other way around. 4) positive for whole congregation in that the Liberta VBS has been well-received in that community and more people know of our church. 5) a pastor point- the timing of PT is great. Usually the end of July had been a low congregational involvement time... dip in attendance etc... Because of PT it has become a high point... more stay involved through the summer, regular worship, helps attendance at Summer Family Bible nights, and provides needed fellowship opportunities for the summer. 6) has sparked a desire in a number of our youth to seriously consider the teaching or preaching ministry... would be great for them to go to MLC and meet former PT helpers... will help them adjust to the culture shock of the States better by having more and more students and people from States who know of Antigua.

2) How did it help your VBS efforts?

Compelled us to do what we had only talked about for some time... branch out to another area of the island with our ministry. PT gave us the extra manpower needed but perhaps more than that the incentive and the forced time schedule of not just planning but actually going and doing. -Helped more of our youth to volunteer for VBS teaching and helping. Love the opportunity to meet new people, especially fellow Lutherans. Helped more of our youth to involve themselves in our congregation's ministry... give them a real sense of importance.

3) New souls/ statistics?

The city VBS has been the mission outreach for our congregation. Because the PT VBS is in Liberta and a distance from our congregation it has not brought new members to our congregation. However, it is doing exactly what we intended it to do 1) prove/identify an area ripe for outreach 2) give us the needed "soil" preparation to start a ministry in an area. The Lutheran church is relatively new to most of the Caribbean... now we are "known" in that area and people wait for us to come back. They have had a

chance to see what we are about, what we teach, how we conduct ourselves and the response has been very favorable. Our ministry plan as missionaries has been to use this VBS effort as a spring board to start an ongoing ministry in the south of the island...regular Bible study, worship, possible new congregation. Pastor Kehl was to make that his area of concentration for the 95-96 year but with the coming of Hurricane Luis all our ministry plans have been pushed back and this will be his priority for 96-97. It has also led us to consider perhaps starting a Lutheran pre-school/school on that side of the island (with local teachers). It has opened ministry doors for us.


4) Our personal reaction to PT?

Also one of the high points of our year. We have furlough every two years, so the pastor that is here for the summer takes PT. The rest of the staff is gone...it was usually a quiet time. PT involves a lot of time/effort but it really is a joy. As a pastor it boosts me- gives my summer better focus, invigorating to see the excitement of youth. It helps my wife and I stay in touch with what American teens are like. It has given our 4 children an excellent role model of neat Christian behavior. It has broadened our contacts with people from the States and that always helps, especially when on an island and away from these contacts.- also gives us a chance to "show off" where we live. Everybody likes to do that.

5) Why encourage more students to be in PT.

1) gives them an actual taste of real ministry (sounds like a program someone should start...Taste of Ministry...) I think back to my high school, college days and being away from home I did virtually nothing as far as ministry in a congregation. So we get to the Sem and find we have never taught Sunday School, VBS, worked with youth groups etc... Now these PT students can actually have the joy and thrill of doing the Lord's work before vicar year or student teaching. 2) it gives them an opportunity to be immersed for a short period in another culture. I wish this could be somehow mandatory for all our ministry students. Invaluable...to see the differences in cultures, and yet to realize the same Lord over all and the unity we share as brothers and sisters in Christ, to see our shared confessional Lutheran heritage but that there are different ways to express our shared faith. 3) gives them a chance to see foreign mission work up close and personal. Will help them as lay people or called workers to better understand why we have missions, to pray for our missions, support our missions. For those who go into the public ministry I would think it would also wet appetites to perhaps also serve overseas...or at least to help a person to better be able to evaluate what it would mean if an overseas call should come...to have had a glimpse of understanding the special challenges this involves but also the special joys.

My timetable is up...gotta run. Crank it out!
Serving Him with you,



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NORTHWESTERN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Project Timothy

Excitement gripped the student body during the last three weeks of school when we learned that Siebert Lutheran Foundation had approved a grant to fund a new program at NPS. The program is called "Project Timothy." Timothy, you'll recall, was the young co-worker of the apostle Paul who was trained by him, who accompanied him on several of his mission journeys, and who later became a pastor and missionary himself. Project Timothy is a program designed specifically to encourage NPS students toward the ministry by giving them an opportunity to participate first-hand in a cross-cultural mission experience.

In this first year, we have the privilege of sending 11 students to two foreign mission fields for three weeks. This July, seven students will be traveling to Antigua and four to St. Lucia. Both of these are English-speaking island nations in the Caribbean where the WELS has established mission efforts.

The eleven students will assist and teach in the vacation Bible schools run by the mission staff on the two islands. They will have the opportunity to experience not only mission work, but also the cultural differences and challenges faced by missionaries who carry the gospel to people the world over.

All students were invited to submit an application for this project. Forty-two students submitted applications, which asked the students to describe why they felt equipped to participate in this project and what they hoped to gain from the experience. A faculty committee of seven members independently evaluated and ranked the applicants on the basis of approximately 15 different criteria. Students chosen are:

- Antigua: Jon Scharf, Andrew Jacobson, Sara Tollefson, Jenny Neuman, Jay Bickelhaupt, Nathan Sutton, David Sulzle
- St. Lucia: Mary Koelpin, Rebekah Learman, Monica Thurow, Ryan Heiman

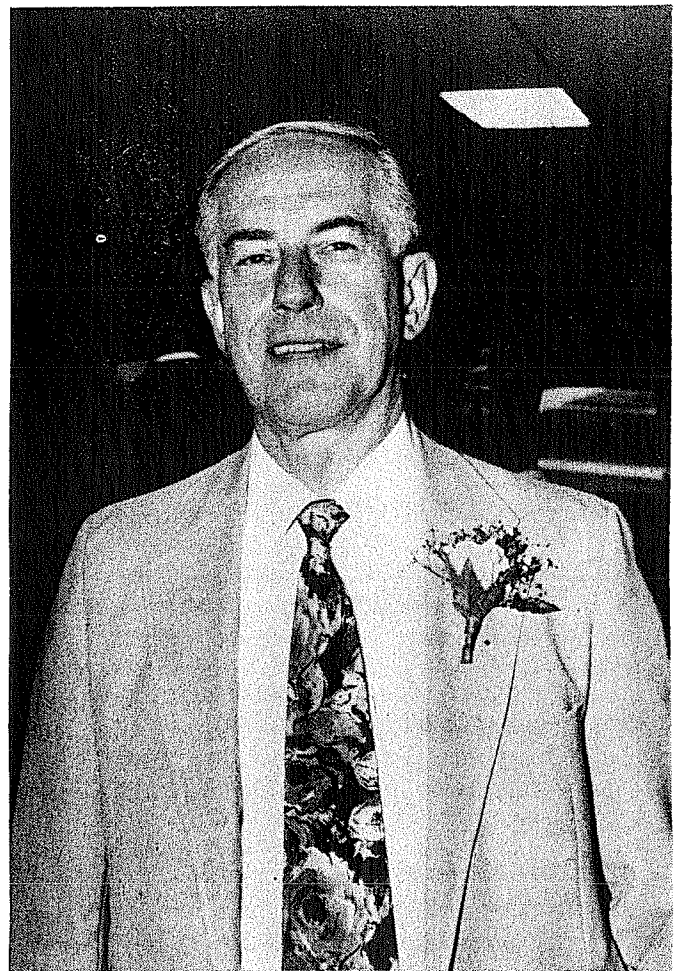
The students will be asked to give presentations on their experience in the coming school year.

Pastor Snowden Sims Accepts Call

We are happy to report that Pastor Snowden Sims of Salem, Milwaukee, has accepted the call to NPS to serve as professor of History and Social Studies. He will also be coaching girls' JV basketball and track. Pastor Sims has previously served NPS as tutor and dean. We look forward to his arrival this summer.

Faculty and Staff Changes

Prof. Franklin Zabell has announced his retirement effective in August, 1993. Prof. Zabell has served faithfully at NPS for 20 years. During that time he greatly strengthened the music program at NPS and made it a source of pride for our school. He founded the Prep Singers, perhaps the best known of our musical groups. Prof. Zabell has also served the church at large through his work on the Commission on Worship and the new hymnal committee. We are happy to report that his wife Bethel will continue to be a vital part of our piano and organ program.



Professor Franklin Zabell

Since it is too late to call for a permanent replacement for the coming school year, Mr. Jonathan Brohn, currently serving as a vicar in Franklin, Wisconsin, has been asked to serve for



NORTHWESTERN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Office of the President

Project Timothy Update

Letter #2 • June 18, 1993

Dear Project Timothy participant and parents,

This is the second of several letters of information you will receive regarding Project Timothy. We'll try to keep you as fully informed as possible and will forward information to you as soon as we have it.

A recent letter from Pastor Jaeger indicated that the people in St. Lucia and Antigua are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the NPS crew and are gearing up for involving them in VBS. He describes this project as an important step for the exploratory work being done in St. Lucia and will be a new step in Antigua as they try to develop a ministry in another village.

Travel plans (some additional information from last letter)

Antigua Group: David Sulzle, Nathan Sutton, and Jay Bickelhaupt will meet at Northwestern (cafeteria parking lot) on Sunday, July 11, at 7:00 am. The rest of the group--all from the Milwaukee area--will meet at **Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church, West Allis (1235 S 100th Street; phone for Pastor Scharf is 774-1215)** at 8:15 am. The group will travel by van to Chicago O'Hare for a 1:40 pm departure on American Airlines flight 1456. After a stop in Puerto Rico and a change of plane the group will arrive in Antigua at 9:15 pm. (American Airlines flight #401) President Schroeder will accompany the group on its trip to Antigua and remain with them for three days. Miss Sauer will fly separately and join the group on Tuesday, July 13.

The group will depart from Antigua on Thursday, July 29, and return to Chicago on American Airlines flight # 627 at 1:39 pm. The van will drop Milwaukee area students at Good Shepherd in West Allis and will deliver David, Nathan, and Jay to Northwestern late in the afternoon.

St. Lucia Group: The group will meet at Northwestern (cafeteria parking lot) on Wednesday, July 14, at 7:00 am. (Mary Koelpin and Rebekah Learman will fly to Milwaukee from Arizona and Texas the day before (July 13) The group will travel to Chicago for a 1:40 pm departure on American Airlines flight #1456. After a stop in Puerto Rico and a change of plane the group will arrive in St. Lucia at 10:50 pm (American Airlines flight #5411). Tutor Voigt will accompany the group and remain with them during

their entire stay. President Schroeder will meet the group in St. Lucia and remain with them for three days.

The group will depart from St. Lucia on Wednesday, August 4, and will arrive in Chicago on American Airlines flight #627 at 1:39 pm. The group will arrive in Watertown late in the afternoon.

Travel Documents (a reminder)

Each student will be required to carry proof of US citizenship, either in the form of a valid passport or an official, **original birth certificate (with raised seal)**.

Pastor Jaeger states, "In order to enter a foreign country like Antigua or St. Lucia, you will need to have proper identification of citizenship. If you don't have a passport, a birth certificate with the raised seal of the city stamped on it is the best. If the immigration officers seem cold or tough, don't worry. They are only doing their job. If they ask a question and you don't understand, just apologize that you didn't understand and would like it explained again.

After you get through immigration and get your luggage, you will have to go through the customs officers. They will usually check all your baggage both for illegal items and also for items on which the government collects duty fees. Let them know that the food you are carrying will be used by you during your stay and that the other things (VBS materials) are to be used by the Lutheran School.

Student Participation fee

If you haven't as yet returned your \$100 fee, please do so as soon as possible.

More on Clothing (from Pastor Jaeger)

Bring nice looking clothes for teaching and meetings. Remember it is hot in the Carribean! Some days you may want to change your sweaty shirt a couple of times. Also know that for public doings (like your teaching and meeting prospects) fairly nice clothing is expected -- that means a dress (a comfortable one) for the girls and slacks for the guys. On other occasions, however, you will want the coolest and most comfortable clothes possible (shorts).

Food

Students are encouraged to bring drink mixes (Cool-Aide, Country Time, etc.), breakfast cereals, cheeses, and other preferred snacks (cookies, crackers, etc.) as room allows.

Other items

Bring sunscreen lotion, insect repellent (Avon Skin-so-Soft works well), beach towel, beach footwear (sandals or aqua-socks), sunglasses, hat, Bibles, reading material, needed medications.

Items for the missions

The missionaries have asked us to bring some items which are unavailable in the islands. If at all possible, bring two bags or suitcases so that we can fill any extra space you have with items for the missions.

That's all the information I have for you right now. If you have questions that need immediate answers, don't hesitate to call or write to me. The time is getting shorter, and, I imagine, the excitement is building.

See you soon!

In Christ,

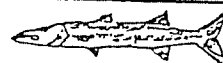


President Mark Schroeder

The Caribbean Lutheran

"Sharing the Good News with the Lands of the Caribbean"

Sept. 1993



Vol. 3, No. 1

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE Project Timothy 1993

"It was an absolutely unbelievable experience!" "Fantastic!" "The trip was 10 times more than anything I could've imagined!" "It was an experience of a lifetime, and I'll never forget it."

Those were some of the comments of the Northwestern Prep students from Watertown, Wisconsin who made a mission trip this summer to the Caribbean. When Jesus sent out the Seventy-two (Lk 10) they came home overjoyed because of the great experience they had. Jesus didn't just teach them, he involved them in the work! What a thrill for them to see the living power of God at work through their activity!

Sometimes the thorough training of a prep school makes active ministry seem so distant. Not anymore - at least for 11 well-chosen Prep students this year. Following a dream of Northwestern Prep's President Mark Schroeder made possible by a special grant, these students were chosen out of more than 40 applicants hoping to make the trip to the West Indies to launch "Project Timothy". "I hope...to send Timothy to you soon," Paul wrote to the Philippian. Like Timothy, Paul's ministry companion, these students were going to experience the lengthy travel away from the comforts of home and busy themselves in sharing the gospel in a culture far different from their own. The West Indies seemed to be an ideal destination since the official language is English, the culture so distant and foreign and yet hearts so eager and open for the message of Jesus.

"Project Timothy" also provided the youth of our Lutheran church in Antigua the rare opportunity to work and play hand in hand with some of their fellow WELS youth. They camped at the beach together, they painted signs together, they canvassed neighborhoods together, they taught Vacation Bible School together and they went to "Antigua Carnival" activities together. "Working with the youth group, people our own age, was real rewarding...finding out the many ways we were similar and yet so different."

"The people in Antigua are some of the nicest I've ever met. They were kind and considerate, I felt very welcome." Quite a few members cooked up special Caribbean meals such as saltfish and fungi, roti, pepperpot, souce, seasoned rice and ducana. I think they not only enjoyed preparing some of their favorite dishes for their guests but also watching their reactions when they gingerly bit into each new food.

And what a joy to see the many children who previously knew little of the ministry of the Lutheran church being reached through the Vacation Bible Schools. The Northwestern students worked side by side with their Caribbean counterparts in sharing the good news of Jesus. There was an average of 146 children attending in St. Lucia and an average of 102 in Liberta Village in Antigua (Antigua held its regular VBS three weeks later at the church with an average of 143 bringing its 1993 VBS attendance to 245 students)

The NPS students that helped in Antigua were Andrew Jacobson, Jonathan Scharf, David Sulzle, Jay Bickelhaupt, Sara Tollefson, Jennifer Neuman, Nathan Sutton and Housemother Ann Sauer. Although they did get their share of the many unmatched Caribbean beaches and take in the special sights, sounds and smells of the Caribbean islands, most meaningful seems to be the impact of being an important part of front-line mission-work. "It gave me a personal view of what mission life is like and the chance to meet fellow workers of the Lord striving for the same goal." "Project Timothy really opened my eyes to how hungry some people are and how hungry I should be for the gospel. It is our job to feed that hunger." "It showed me the value of life in service to the Lord."

Like the Seventy-two, we were all excited because of the success of "Project Timothy". Let's continue to work together throughout Synod to find more ways to involve people in activities that "fan into flame" the faith in Christ that ultimately rejoices "that our names are written in heaven!"

Caribbean Lutheran Editors:

Pastor David A. Kehl

Pastor Mark W. Henrich

Contributing Editor: [Name obscured]

PROJECT TIMOTHY
A Look at the St. Lucia Experience

The last two weeks of July provided excitement and vigorous activity for Trinity Lutheran Church, Castries, St. Lucia. Four ministry-bound students from Northwestern Preparatory School (NPS), Watertown, Wisconsin, arrived at Vigie airport on the night of July 14. Though tired by their day-long journey, they eagerly looked forward to exploring St. Lucia and Trinity Lutheran Church.

The first ten days of their island stay flew by, filled with canvassing & handing out flyers, staff meetings, choir rehearsal, acclimatizing to our island, meals (feasts) in the members' homes, and even some beach time. The five mornings of VBS, July 19-23, proved to be the most intense hours of their visit.

The VBS flowed smoothly through the week, with a daily average of 146 students in attendance with a high of 164 on Thursday. A heavy morning rain on Friday kept a good number of students at home. Each child in attendance on Friday received a certificate of attendance and those with perfect attendance received a lapel button, declaring "JESUS LOVES ME".

The theme for the VBS was: "I AM LOVED". The children learned that they are loved by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and by God's family. The final lesson reminded them that, since they are loved, they will want to love one another. Through the week they all learned several songs in English and two in the local Creole dialect, Patois. The high point of the week was the Closing Service on Sunday, July 25, at the Vide Foutelle Secondary School in LaClery, Castries. Over 100 souls attended this service at the same site used for the VBS weekly activities.

The four "Project Timothy" staff members augmented Trinity staff members, Mr. Rainsford Smith, Mrs. Elaine Thaman and Mrs. Nalini Alaparhi. Miss Maxine Harvey and Mr. Errol Howe of our mother congregation, St. John's Lutheran, Antigua, flew down to join the staff as the "Antiguan Connection".

The four "Project Timothy" NPS students were:

Ryan Heiman from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Mark Koelpin from Tucson, Arizona; Rebekah Learman from Houston, Texas; and Monica Thurow from Watertown, Wisconsin. Tutor Daniel Voigt, a member of NPS's faculty and dormitory staff, accompanied them on their journey serving as chief of refreshments for the VBS and head driver for the NPS students as they discovered the beaches, rain forest, volcano, and culture of "St. Lisi". Tanned, tired and tested for the Lord, they left from Vigie Field on the morning of August

Their three-week visit afforded them some exposure to the joys and privileges as well as the challenges and frustrations of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a nation and culture far different than their own. They learned that one can survive when the water pipe is dry, the temperature and humidity are high and the electricity is off. May this experience, increase in them both the love for blood-bought souls and commitment to serve our Savior, as full-time church workers.

A special word of thanks goes to the members of Trinity who provided weekend meals for the off-island staff and daily refreshments for the VBS. Mrs. Karla Jaeger did stellar service as head of the housekeeping department at the parsonage which was the "Project Timothy" guest house.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

CHILDREN'S BIBLE HOUR

Two weekly Children's Bible Hours share the truths of Holy Scripture with young souls in St. Lucia. Pastor Jaeger meets with children in the LaClery & Corinth areas for singing, story time and games. Trinity Lutheran's goal is to teach the love of Jesus and introduce the children and their families to the ministry of Trinity congregation.

for more information, write:

"THE CARIBBEAN LUTHERAN"
G.P.O. BOX 1248
St. John's, ANTIGUA
Leeward Islands, West Indies



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA

WINDWARD ISLANDS, WEST INDIES

(A mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

August 28, 1993

COPY

Northwestern Preparatory School
Reverend Mark G. Schroeder, President
1300 Western Avenue
Watertown, Wisconsin 53094

Dear Mark:

Greetings in the name of the Lord of the Church!

Thank you for the work which you did in organizing and finding funding for "Project Timothy." From our perspective the whole effort was tremendously successful. The presence of your students was surely a blessing to our congregation and the VBS. We were impressed with the attitude and effort of the students of the St. Lucia contingent. The children here in Corinth have asked that they come back during the Christmas holidays.

Last evening our church council reviewed the St. Lucia phase and unanimously passed a resolution to invite NPS to continue to send students to serve on our VBS staff. I trust that you will review with the students their impressions and perhaps make some changes based on their input.

The only recommendation we have is that the length of stay was perhaps 3 or 4 days too long. I know that airline fares and schedules may have affected the departure date. I think that leaving on Monday morning (rather than Wednesday) would have been ideal. Karla and I truly enjoyed hosting the students and have some ideas for future stays (should there be any) to make things a little easier for ourselves and the students. We are satisfied with the financial arrangements. The one item that surprised me was that our electric bill was about \$40 (US) higher than normal. It cost me \$100 (EC) to get the mattress recovered. I am assuming that Dan told you about the stench made by a mattress heated to melting degree by a 110 volt curling iron plugged into 220 volts. We are happy to pick up these extra costs.

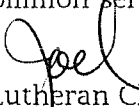
As you talk to the students they mention that Karla spent several days in bed with a Migraine headache. These are common for her and were not caused by the students presence.

We were also very appreciative of the supervision by Tutor Voigt. His presence and chauffeuring eased our work tremendously. We were most of all dazzled by his fine motoring skills and pot-hole avoidance techniques.

Above all, we hope that through "Project Timothy" Bryan, Mary, Monica & Rebekah have a deepened appreciation for world missions and an increased awareness of the challenges faced by those who proclaim the name of Christ in foreign nations. We would be disappointed too, if they have left without a shared sense of the excitement we feel at having this rare privilege of proclaiming Christ to the nations. As they continue in their preparations to enter the full-time Gospel ministry, we hope that the memory of this trip will inspire them to prepare diligently for their future work. We trust that all of you will continue to pray fervently for the ministry we carry out in your name.

By the time you receive this you will be several weeks into the new school year and no doubt grappling with the challenges of inheriting a full campus and combining with MLPS. May the Lord bless you richly in both efforts.

In the common service of our marvelous God,


Trinity Lutheran Church
Rev. Joel W. Jaeger, WELS Missionary

✓ copy: D. Voigt

"Sing to the Lord a new song, . . . you islands, and all who live in them" (Isaiah 42:10)

mailing address: Gablewoods, Box GM 858
Castries, St. Lucia
West Indies

Reverend Joel W. Jaeger, Pastor
Home phone & FAX: (809)450-1484
Church phone: (809)451-6181

PROJECT TIMOTHY -- ST. LUCIA PHASE

July 14 - August 4 — Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, July 14

2:25 pm -- President Schroeder arrives - Vigie
7:30 pm -- Bible Class at Dr. Suri's
10:50 pm -- Students & Tutor arrive - Vigie

Thursday, July 15

am -- get acquainted with Jaegers/local area
-- get temporary driver's license for Tutor Voigt
pm -- Reduit Beach
6:10 pm (?) -- Antigua contingent arrives

Friday, July 16

10:00 am -- VBS Staff Meeting at Jaegers
pm -- Tour of Castries/Mourne/Bagshaws/Caribelle Batik

Saturday, July 17

9:00 am -- Distribute flyers in Castries
pm -- Windjammer Beach (leave Jaeger's house at 8:30)
7:00 pm -- meal at Christophers, La Pansee

Sunday, July 18

5:00 am -- President Schroeder leaves for Vigie
7:45 am -- leave for church/Family Bible Hour
NPS/Jaeger choir -- ???
1:00 pm -- meal -- Dr. Fleming
pm - Reduit Beach/VBS preparation

Monday, July 19

8:00 am -- leave for VBS - La Clery
pm - VBS preparation

Tuesday, July 20

8:00 am -- leave for VBS - La Clery
pm - VBS preparation/Marisule Beach

Wednesday, July 21

8:00 am -- leave for VBS - La Clery
pm - VBS preparation

Thursday, July 22

8:00 am -- leave for VBS - La Clery
pm - VBS preparation/Marisule Beach

Friday, July 23

8:00 am -- leave for VBS - La Clery
pm - Le Sport Beach
7:00 pm -- meal with Kunavarapu/VBS party

Saturday, July 24

Castries Market/Marigot Bay
6:30 pm Pot-Luck congregational Fellowship Meal

Sunday, July 25

7:45 am -- leave for church/VBS Closing Service
NPS/Jaeger choir -- ???
1:00 pm -- meal -- Dr. Suri
pm - Reduit Beach
evening -- Game night -- Jaegers

5:30 pm (?) -- Antigua contingent leave

Monday, July 26

11:00 am -- leave for picnic at Cas En Bas

Tuesday, July 27

Pigeon Island -- hike to fort & windsurfing
late afternoon - VBS follow-up calls
fix your own supper at Jaegers -- ??? (Jaeger Anniversary)

Wednesday, July 28

assist with Connth Children's Bible Hour beach party --
Pigeon Island
7:30 pm -- Bible Class at Dr. Suri's

Thursday, July 29

7:30 am -- LYA/NPS trip to Soufriere

Friday, July 30

am -- Point Seraphine shopping
pm -- beach/windsurfing (??)
7:00 pm meal - ????

Saturday, July 31

Halcyon Beach

Sunday, August 1

7:45 am -- leave for church/Family Bible Hour
-- Communion Service/T. Voigt -- preacher
NPS/Jaeger choir -- ???
1:00 pm -- meal -- ??????
pm - Reduit Beach

Monday, August 2

golf outing - ??
Vigie Beach/Banana Plantation tour - ??
Windsurfing (?)

Tuesday, August 3

Beach -- Pick your own -- Windsurfing (?)
late afternoon -- VBS follow-up calls
Pack

Wednesday, August 4

6:00 am -- leave for Vigie Airport

I AM
LOVED



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA

WINDWARD ISLANDS, WEST INDIES

(A mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

June 4, 1993



1993 Vacation Bible School Initial Plan

TRINITY'S MISSION STATEMENT: We at Trinity Lutheran Church believe that everything we do is based on Jesus Christ and his work of salvation in showing his love toward sinners. Our preaching and teaching is based solely on the Word of God and is in accordance with the teachings of the Lutheran confessions. Out of love for our Savior we obey his command to share the Good news of Jesus Christ with all nations beginning here in Castries, St. Lucia. We seek to accomplish this through continued Christian fellowship in worship and Bible study in the Word of God.

VBS Specific Goals: To teach children the stories of Scripture, presenting Jesus as their personal and only Savior from sin. . . . To win souls for Christ. . . . To form a group of potential members from the children and their families. . . . To effect a change in the morality of the students who attend. . . . To raise among Lucians the level of awareness of the existence and message of Trinity Lutheran Church.

VBS Dates: July 19 - 23, 1993

Time: 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Location: Vide Boutelle Secondary School, LaClery, Castries

Levels: Four levels: 1) Ages 5 & 6; 2) Ages 7-9; 3) Ages 10,11; 4) Ages 12-14

Teachers: Mrs. Christopher, Mr. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Thaman, Pastor Jaeger (substitute)

Music Leader: Mrs. Lynn Frank

Helpers: Rani & Ravi Kunavarapu, Ayodele Smith, Roger Paul
Ryan Helman, Rebekah Liermann, Mary Koeplin, Monica Thurow

Daily Schedule:

- 9:00 - 9:15 Joint Devotion, Go to rooms, Settle down
- 9:15 - 10:15 Story & exercise, begin craft project (Music for Levels 4 & 2)
- 10:15 - 10:30 Refreshment Break
- 10:30 - 11:15 Craft (Music for Levels 3 & 1)
- 11:20 - 11:30 Joint Closing

Music Schedule: Learn one English and one Patois song for the service on July 25

- Level 4: 9:30 - 9:50
- Level 2: 9:55 - 10:15
- Level 3: 10:30 - 10:50
- Level 1: 10:55 - 11:15

"Sing to the Lord a new song, . . . you islands, and all who live in them" (Isaiah 42:10)

mailing address: Gablewoods, Box GM 858
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