

Dynamically engaged



The Amazing World of CHCA Intercession

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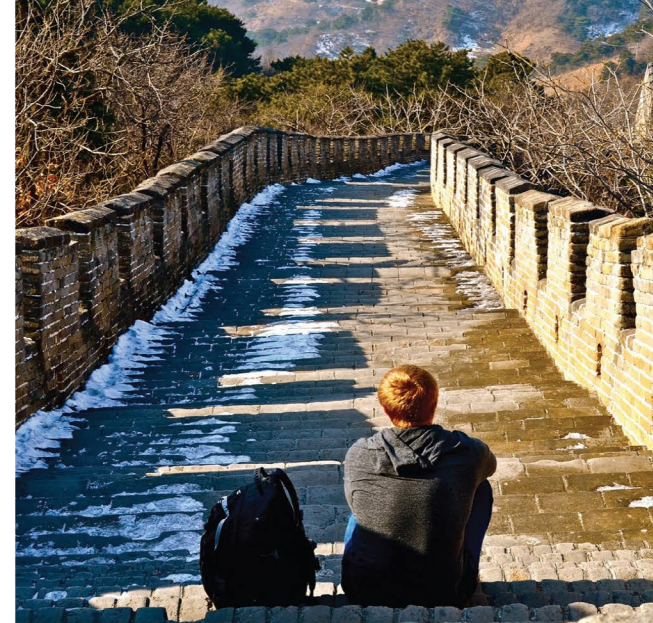
The amazing world of CHCA Intercession rewards those willing to take the initiative and try something new. This includes openness in exploring a new culture here or abroad, trying new foods, trying out fledgling Spanish skills, learning to use a swing sickle to help harvest a crop with a Peruvian family, stepping into the adult culture within a professional career, tutoring an inner city elementary student, or reaching out and taking the risk to befriend someone you haven't known in your own group from CHCA.

Each year our students return with proof of the great rewards to be had from the amazing world of

CHCA Intercession (formerly known as "J-Term" and "May-Term" experiences). Case in point: how many other schools have high school students who can say they have: built a house from scratch; eaten guinea pig in a home in Peru; sat around a fire with the Massai tribe in Kenya singing Jambo Bwana; gone on a four-day safari photographing cheetahs, lions, and cobras (see cover); climbed Mount Vesuvius in Italy; explored a Costa Rican rainforest, discovering a poison dart frog, holler monkeys, chestnut-mandibled toucans, and three toed sloths; visited the Sistine Chapel and seen Michelangelo's frescoes on the ceiling, including the most famous panel, entitled "The Creation of Adam"; heard

the unique night sounds of camping in the California desert; kayaked in the open waters in the Virgin Islands; spent two weeks in a judge's chambers listening to the interaction between the defense and prosecuting attorneys in a murder trial, discovering the role of the bailiff and the clerk of court and hearing a judge share what is going through his mind as he presides over a trial and makes decisions in criminal and civil cases; shared two weeks in the marketing department of a major corporation observing the coordination between research and advertising; or worked in a company developing electric cars?

For some students the most memorable part may be actually seeing the places they have studied in AP European History, English Literature, Latin Class, History of Christianity, Western Civilization, or World Studies. Personally, I have enjoyed the new relationships that develop with our own students, getting to know them outside of the regular routine of school. My appreciation stems from how amazing it is to realize how many really "cool" kids we have at CHCA, and I am talking about many who do not know how really cool they are; however, I see their coolness in the way they reach out to engage others and become the catalyst that causes others to stretch themselves outside their comfort zone. Some students just seem to make life more fun for everyone around them. Others impress by always being upbeat and positive no matter what the circumstances or how disappointing the situation. Their attitude lifts everyone else up out of the pits. So to me the most



amazing part of the world of CHCA Intercession is spending time with our awesome students.

Often and surprisingly, there are frustrations encountered along the way that end up enriching the overall experience. This past year, the Kenya group got stuck in Chicago for several days due to the weather. Frustration hit, but the coolest thing wasn't the temperature, it was the perception the students adopted that God had a purpose in the delay. Arriving days late, they were able to extend their time in Kenya. During this extended time, God's answer came. When they would have already gone home from Kenya, they had the chance to witness a child bride rescue, and they were able to meet and pray over Emily, the girl rescued. Not only that, the students gave Emily much of what they had brought on their trip, and have raised money (and continue to raise money) to pay for Emily's schooling. Amazing!

Experiencing the amazing world of CHCA Intercession will change you. Seeing the brokenness in the world disturbs students' souls and changes their spiritual state giving new eyes, a softened heart, and an upsized view of God. Students learn to love people in new ways and they become bothered by things they never noticed before. They discover the ability to do things they never believed they could do and their lives will never be the same. Students find as they give themselves away to change the world, God changes them. As they say in Costa Rica, this is Pura Vida! Pure life! Simply amazing!



Senior Caroline Kuremsky '14 reflects on her recent Kenya Intercession experience:

"You learn to appreciate simplicity. Experiencing more of His creation, people and cultures was meaningful. Being able to learn about something here at school, and then to go and actually experience it is amazing."



"The best learning is not sightseeing, but experiencing."

Dan Grantham shares as he reflects on the nearly 40 Intercession trips he's taken in the last 16 years. Long-time relationships of building into villages and orphanages in Kenya have existed. Over the years, tens of thousands of dollars have been raised by students to provide facilities, food and even new school desks for the students in St. Nicholas Orphanage. Students have literally reshaped their definition of "wealth" after experiencing culture and community in these villages thousands of miles from home. Whether living the life of a Massai, performing in the American Embassy or simply singing, dancing and praying with teenagers from another culture, our students boldly and courageously overcome fears, make meaningful connections and truly start to understand the kingdom impact they can have – all over the world.

