

# St. Lucia Mission Trip

by Loren Nelson III



On March 10th, 2011, Dakota Adventist Academy students Leanna Quaile, Britney Roderiques, and Matthew Boyko, accompanied by Pastor Loren Nelson, traveled to St. Lucia Island in the eastern Caribbean Sea on an integrated mission trip. Their goal was to tile an elementary school, but they accomplished much more. The students were involved in Vacation Bible School, medical clinics, scraping and painting a church, as well as helping individual families. They learned that the island



Sunny Acres School



Matthew Boyko

was hit by hurricane Tomas a little over a year ago and the money that was promised to the elementary school was put into rebuilding the island's infrastructure. Many homes were damaged, including that of the principal of the local Adventist Academy, whose home slid down a hill.

Boyko participated in several medical excursions and helped treat sundry ailments. Most people suffered from high blood pressure and malnutrition. There were cases that made the students' hearts ache although there was little they could do to help them.

Accompanying American doctors were not allowed to practice on their own, but were assisted by a St. Lucian doctor.

Each evening, after a long, hot day of work, the group enjoyed swimming at the beach. The waves were unexpectedly high the first evening however. Pastor Nelson was treated for a broken arm. Two others in the group were also treated; a broken collar bone and concussion. Nonetheless, God blessed them as these minor setbacks did not dampen their spirits.



Leanna Quaile

Roderiques and Quaile were able to work at one of the churches where they scraped and ground the walls smooth with the bricks that were used to build the church. Afterward, they started painting in the sanctuary, as well as other rooms.



Britney Roderiques

All of those on the trip were able to lay brick or do grout work in the school. About 15,000 square feet of tile was laid. This school will replace a smaller school that has no play area and is overcrowded. The new school will house over 600 students. A music room addition was also started on the academy adjacent to the elementary school.

Plans next year are to serve in Barbados in the West Indies. The need is to rebuild a youth camp as well as help repair some churches. This opportunity is for service-minded high school and college students who wish to participate during their Christmas break.

*Photos by Loren Nelson III*

DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

# Dakota Dispatch

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# Dakota Adventist Academy

## DAA Students' Talents Showcased in Home Show

by Rachael Boyd

At Dakota Adventist Academy, the students involved in music or gymnastics practice and perform all year long, and then host clinics to teach others their trade. All the hard work and training that each student and staff member puts into the group is then culminated in Home Show Weekend at the end of the year.



On Saturday, May 14, family, friends, church members and alumni gathered Sabbath evening to enjoy the students' performances at Home Show. The evening began with the Vespers Concert Program, arranged and directed by John McCombs, DAA Music teacher. The stage in the auditorium was decorated as a throne room in Heaven and the theme for the evening, "When We All Get to Heaven", was displayed along the stage. The DAA Choir started the concert with a rousing version of the theme song, arranged by John McPheeters. The Brentwood Elementary Band, whom Mr. McCombs has been directing this year, also performed two numbers. Two band students were given the opportunity to direct the Brass Ensemble, with Thomas Chapman guiding the band in "Trumpet Voluntary"

and Leanna Quaile leading out in the "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Dakota Singers sang several numbers beautifully and concluded the program with two crowd favorites, "Yahweh" and "How Great Thou Art".

Next on the docket for Home Show was an Acrolights program in the gymnasium. The Acrolights created a big-top circus complete with acrobats, animals, and even a clown. The "Cirque D'AA" event highlighted the time and effort the students and coaches had put into planning and perfecting group and specialty routines. Coach Chris Morrison introduced the team, all 25 Acrolights, and as they were introduced, they showcased a special skill that they had learned. Students Jill and Jenna Donald organized a twelve-member group routine, planning each move and directing the members. Host Matthew Boyko, along with cohorts Lexi Dossenko and Adrienne Bohl, kept the audience laughing in between acts. Several other specialty routines included a Pink Panther comedy routine, the Quad Squad performing daring feats, and the Duo Routine featuring Leanna Quaile and Brienne Engelhart. The final performance of the evening was the Team Routine, using each member of the team to build giant pyramids, toss gymnasts into the air, and perform great stunts.



The year of hard work by our gymnasts and musicians paid off. Their final performance before the large audience might have been nerve-wracking for some, but they were prepared and knew what they were doing. Thank you, DAA students, for your hard work and for a great evening!

*Photos by Rachael Boyd*

## Baptism Signals a Move

by Linda (Rehurek) Nwankwo



Christopher Eschette was baptized April 2, 2011, at the Red River Seventh-day Adventist Church of Fargo, North Dakota. He is a native of Florida and a student of the Word of God who recently resettled in Fargo. Eschette came to a November 2010 evangelistic meeting that the Red River Church

held and after the meeting was over, he just kept coming. As Eschette was brought up out of the water at his baptism, the first sounds he heard were, "Amen", "Praise the Lord", and "Hallelujah".

As a result of this last year's growth, the Red River Church members have had to relocate to an actual church building from the store front they had been using. The church belongs to the Golden Ridge Lutheran Church and has a spacious sanctuary, fellowship hall, choir loft and a sizeable parking lot. The additional space is much appreciated.

The first Sabbath worship service was May 7, 2011, with Pastor Jordan Peck presiding. There were approximately thirty-five in attendance and a delicious fellowship meal followed the service.

After the meal, members divided into small groups to witness in the surrounding area. Each resident was handed a card introducing them to the Red River Adventist Church, inviting them to church and mid-week services, followed by a prayer for that person. When the members returned to the church parking lot, they collectively prayed that the Holy Spirit would touch each person they had met that day.