

IMPACT

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WHEREVER IT HURTS

Regent trauma teams bring hope and healing to the world's hardest-hit areas

Photo by Tony CeCe

Ask Regent students from the School of Psychology & Counseling (SPC) what they did for summer vacation and the answer may surprise you. As a member of the university's trauma team he or she may have traveled to Africa, Eastern Europe, South America or the Caribbean reaching out to people in crisis.

Dr. Benjamin Keyes is the director of Regent's Center for Trauma Studies. He says the trauma team's mission is twofold: "One is to provide training leading to certification as a traumatologist for our students and the community.

The second is to provide on-site mental health services delivered by a trauma team within 48 to 72 hours of a disaster or crisis.

"Along with the certifications, we provide an immersion experience that gives a two-and-a-half week, 120-hour, hands-on practicum to our students in the summer." Keyes continues, "The practicum is

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necessary for certification through Green Cross Academy for Traumatology, of which we are a training site. We immerse in a culture that has a lot of trauma.”

Regent’s first trauma team deployed to South Africa in the summer of 2009. A group of 17—which included four faculty, 12 students and one alumnus—worked with the Bosoto tribe in a remote area outside Johannesburg.

“There’s approximately 90 percent unemployment, so poverty is rampant,” Keyes says. “Thirty percent of the population is dying of AIDS. One of the tribal beliefs is that [sexual intercourse] with a toddler will take AIDS away. So, sexual trauma is rampant. Domestic violence is rampant.”

The Regent team spent more than two weeks training counselors, teachers and social workers on various aspects

of trauma. Team members worked with abuse victims, treated traumatized families and helped local professionals cope with compassion fatigue.



Team prayer in Qwa Qwa, South Africa

“We’re privileged to be invited into people’s lives at their deepest points of need. That creates lots of opportunities,” says Dr. William Hathaway, dean of Regent’s SPC.

“This is being Jesus to the world. Reaching out to people when they’re walking through the dark moments of their life; that’s a theme that resonates in Scripture from the Psalms to the Epistles. We also see that as being consistent with our mission and calling. But in addition, providing effective services will help people grow through the tragedies of life in a way that brings them closer to God. That can impact communities who can be witnesses to their world.”



A view of the city of Qwa Qwa, South Africa

Since their first trip to South Africa, Regent trauma teams have deployed to Romania, Haiti and Chile: “You’ve got to go where the hurt is,” Keyes insists. “As I started talking with people in the trauma field who had been doing outreach to indigenous populations in Africa and Asia, particularly around the issues of trauma, I saw that it really was a perfect niche for students.”

Third-year doctoral candidate, Ryan Calhoun took part in trauma teams deployed to Haiti and South Africa. “They were challenging but absolutely rewarding,” he says. “I had the opportunity to gain some valuable experience early in my doctoral studies.

“I just felt that the [trauma team] was an ideal fit for me,” Calhoun shares. “It teaches real-world experience and facilitates not only career but a lot of personal growth as well.” Calhoun says it also fits his interest in joining the U.S. Army as a military psychologist after he earns his doctorate in 2012: “I’m going on active duty after graduation. And I believe that being part of the trauma

teams and having my traumatology certification were a big part of my receiving an Army scholarship.” Dr. Merrill Reese is co-director of the Center for Trauma Studies and specializes in grief and loss. He deployed to Haiti about four months after the September 2009 earthquake with Keyes, Calhoun and four others on their team: “I had several people say, ‘Why are you going into Haiti?’” Reese remembers. “The only answer I had for them was that the Lord in Scripture says He’s very near to the brokenhearted (Ps. 38:18). When you’re near to them, you’re near the presence of Christ. That’s not a bad place to be.”

“God has so blessed us to be here at Regent because the university has been nothing but supportive,” Keyes explains. “Money has been tight. We’ve been looking for grants. We’ve been looking for help all the way around. Eventually, I’d like to get some endowment to undergird this. But as a startup that’s only been in existence for a short time, we’ve come a long way very quickly.” ❀

View a trauma team video at www.regent.edu/impact.

Unusual Connections

Regent's Dr. Corné Bekker discusses the university's surprising impact in China



For generations, people around the world have worshipped the almighty dollar, deutschemark, yen or yuan. But Regent's Dr. Corné Bekker says times have changed: "This global economic collapse that we've all experienced has opened people's minds to the fact that what we have is not working. People are deeply interested in more than making money. They are not just interested in power, prestige and privilege.

"This is true in countries around the world. People are hungry for leadership and business principles that have a solid values and virtues call to them. They want to know how these things can change their world."

Bekker says one of the best examples of where that is happening is in China. The School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE) has several agreements with Chinese universities

and government agencies to provide leadership training. Regent also has opportunities to train church leaders and entrepreneurs across that nation.

Bekker says officials he has talked to inside the Chinese government link Christianity with economic development: "Everyone I've spoken to says this is why the West has prospered so much, and from a theological perspective, I would agree with that. The Chinese are deeply interested in finding out what are the true values of Christianity."

In April 2010, Regent's assistant vice president for professional and continuing education Julianne Cenac led a university delegation to China to work with a government organization. Bekker tells the story of how his time in Beijing ended with one of the most special experiences of his life: "It was very curious to me why they would choose Regent to help. But at the end of the trip a local tour guide and I were doing some sightseeing. At one point when we were alone, he opened his jacket and pulled out a tiny Bible.

"Then he said, 'China has the power, has the influence, has the people. But what we don't have are the values, and you have that.' Then he pointed to the Bible and said, 'This is what we're interested in. This is where Regent can make a difference.'"

GLE offers fully accredited master's and doctoral degrees both on campus and in a flexible online format. GLE provides rigorous yet innovative academic programs that can accommodate even the busiest professional. ✿

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“COURTING” FAMILIES

Standing in the gap for at-risk kids and their parents

For most people, mental health care conjures up images of a psychologist taking dutiful notes while seated next to a patient comfortably reclining on a sofa. But as Dr. Linda Baum, assistant director of Regent University’s Psychological Services Center (PSC), explains: “The majority of mental health care in our country is happening in the jails and prisons. There’s a lack of funding for individuals with mental health needs. So they end up behaving in a way that gets them involved with the legal system.”

The PSC was established to provide forensic training for Regent students working toward their doctorate in clinical psychology. Some ten years ago, the PSC was given the opportunity to work with the court services unit of Chesapeake, Va. Regent students would go to the courthouse to work with youth in crisis.

PSC director Dr. LaTrelle Jackson says, “The city’s court services unit does not fund mental health screenings or services directly, so Regent was able to coordinate a true collaboration. We provide the skilled personnel to do the screening and testing to create reports that enhance the care of youth in the court system.”

Jackson says working with the endorsement of the judges, probation

officers, court services unit and department of juvenile justice prepares doctoral students to compete nicely for national internship spots.

She also applauds the program’s local success: “We went from eight screenings one year to 80 the next, and it’s taken off ever since. In 2009, Virginia Beach officials said, ‘You’re doing all these great things in Chesapeake, can we also get started here?’”

Reaching underserved and under-represented populations is at the heart of Regent’s School of Psychology & Counseling (SPC) mission. “If we can reach that young adult, who is our entry point to a family, then we can work with the family to create a home environment for sustained gain,” Jackson explains.

Dr. William Hathaway, SPC dean, agrees: “Our students could do field experiences in any setting, but we feel that targeting part of that experience with underserved populations fits our calling.”

Baum says there’s nothing to keep this initiative from expanding to other communities: “We welcome serving as many as we can.” ❀

For more information about Regent’s Psychological Services Center visit www.regent.edu/psc.

A Message From the President



Dear Friends,

We are thankful for so much at this time of year: God's mercy and favor; splendor and compassion; for family and friends; a great place to work; students, faculty and staff who love Jesus. We are blessed by the impact Regent's School of Psychology & Counseling is making both locally and globally. When Regent trauma teams go to Africa, Romania, Chile and Haiti, they become the realization of the vision God gave Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson more than 30 years ago. In Regent, the Lord created an institution of higher learning that, to this day, is moving the hearts and minds of Christian men and women who are truly changing the world. Our students, faculty and staff are grateful for the love and support friends like you show through your faithful prayers and gifts. As we look ahead to the new year, please join us in asking God to give us a fresh anointing of His Spirit and more of His strength, love and mercy every day.

Sincerely,

Carlos Campo, Ph.D.



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SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING

225

People have participated in the trauma center's local training classes in the past three years.

180

Haitian pastors and lay people were trained in coping skills last summer, so they can help their community.

16

Second-year psychology and counseling students in the doctoral training program are serving the PSC as part of a regular rotation.

42

Couples received marriage-building tools in 2010 from the MMATE Center, which focuses on marriage and ministry assessment and empowerment.

REGENT WORLD CHANGER



RYAN TRUMBO

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
UNITED STATES ARMY

Captain Ryan Trumbo '05, currently is on the frontlines in Afghanistan using his Regent doctorate in psychology to help soldiers cope with life in an active war zone. A clinical psychologist for the U.S. Army, Trumbo also served an eight-month deployment in Iraq as a combat stress officer.

Please join Regent University in praying for the work and safety of Trumbo, January's alumni world changer.



Time is Running Out

Looking for a way to reduce your 2010 tax burden? Your year-end gift to Regent University supports our mission to equip Christian leaders to change the world. Simply send us a check or credit-card donation using the enclosed envelope. If postmarked by December 31, your gift will count toward the 2010 tax year. ✨

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