

# SOUTH AFRICA

**LOCATION: GRABOUW, ZA**

**TEAM SIZE: 8 STUDENTS**

**TEAM LEADER: 2 STAFF**

**DATE: DECEMBER 2007**

Eight Sterling College students and two employees traveled to South Africa on a mission trip over Christmas break 2007. The team assisted AGAPE orphanage based in Grabouw, South Africa, a town about one hour from Cape Town, for two and a half weeks.



While in South Africa, the team assisted with landscaping and renovations at two of AGAPE's mission sites, took care of children suffering from HIV and cerebral palsy, played with local children and participated in worship services and prayer walks through the townships.

One of the harder tasks asked of the team was assisting in the care of the children infected with HIV and cerebral palsy. The team learned how to change their diapers and feed them, all the while knowing that some of these children were almost 15 years old.

"I left my heart with those children. I saw true love in their eyes. Though they could not talk or walk, feed or clean themselves, when they smiled, you felt love," Junior Whitney Roach said.

This experience was a life-changing opportunity for all who went.

"The most memorable experience was seeing the faith of Gerrit and Ami, [the AGAPE founders]. When they felt the Lord telling them to do something, they simply did it. No questions asked. I want that kind of faith," Junior David Fuller said.

Those comprising the team to South Africa included Ben Birr, Nina, Wis., Jon Earle, Sterling, Kan., David Fuller, Miltonvale, Kan., Naiya Hernandez, Arvada, Colo., Laura Klima, Great Bend, Kan., Karin Lederle, Sterling, Kan., Whitney Roach, Sterling, Kan., Stephen Wilson, Broomfield, Colo. The trip was organized by Mission Director Henry Lederle and Team Leader and Resident Director Christine Lederle.

In preparation for the trip the team wrote fundraising letters, raked leaves around town and had a booth at the homecoming hangout. The team also met once a week at 7am for morning prayer, participated in low ropes to build team unity and had team meetings once a week that focused on team logistics, as well as educating team members about the country of South Africa.

