

# Live It!



**June/July 2007**

Acteens is a missions organization for girls in grades 7-12. Through Acteens teenage girls can have opportunities to grow in their relationships with God and their peers. As Acteens learn to look beyond themselves, they become actively involved in missions and ministry.

Missions is at the heart of Acteens, and members explore and do hands-on missions in their communities and beyond. Acteens are also actively involved in learning about missions and praying for and giving to missions.

## **Scripture**

Old Testament

**Life of Israel:** Genesis 1:27a, Genesis 2:7

1:27a So God created human beings, making them to be like himself.

2:7 Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed like-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.

New Testament

**Life of Christ:** Acts 17:28a

28a as someone has said, 'In him we live and move and exist.

## Culture Study

Research confirms that gender-specific organizations provide a healthy learning environment, particularly for teenage girls. Acteens offers teenage girls an opportunity to grow in their understanding of God, themselves, and others in an all-girl environment. Acteens experiences help girls develop dynamic relationships with God leading them to make missions a continuing part of their lives.

Example: Katie H. upcoming Acteens Panelist had the following to say recently:

"I absolutely love everything about Acteens. I look forward to it every year. My favorite aspect of Acteens is that it is just a group of girls worshipping the Lord together...When there are hundreds of girls in one room all worshipping the Lord and growing and bonding with one another, it is just awesome. I make new friendships every year and I always come home closer to the Lord. I wish every girl had the opportunity to attend an Acteens camp. What you get out of your experience at Acteens is awesome. No amount of words can explain the feeling that you get when you look around and see Christian girls all forming friendships and worshipping Jesus Christ together!"

## Case Study



Tracy Proffitt is the Office Manager/ Summer Camp Director at CrossRoads Camp & Conference Center. Tracy first attended camp at CrossRoads as a child stating, "I can vividly remember long rides up the dusty camp road packed in a van full of GAs. With every turn the van took, I would strain my neck to see if we had reached the camp's gates yet. When we finally made it to pavement, my friends and I would let out a chorus of happy, high-pitched squeals. She returned to camp as an Acteen and went on to become a camp Counselor. Through Acteens, Tracy was nurtured as a leader and became an Acteen State Panelist. As a panelist Tracy helped plan the Weekender, an annual retreat for teenage girls, where spiritual growth, missions and leadership are emphasized. Tracy and her husband Jay, have been open to God's leadership in coming to work at CrossRoads saying "That feeling of excitement and anticipation has never left me, even after countless trips up the mountain. CrossRoads is a place that still fills my soul with joy, peace and an ever-closer feeling of the presence of God." As she works with the Girls in Action (for girls in grades 4-6) (GAs) and Acteens that come to summer camp at CrossRoads Tracy is aware of the potential in each girl and strives to help them develop leadership skills, a love of missions, and a close relationship with God.

## Opportunities for Involvement

Mentor a young girl in your church. Help make a difference in the life of a girl you know.

Encourage participation in the [Leader in Training \(LIT\)](#) program offered at CrossRoads. Help make a difference in the lives of the girls who will attend summer camp.

Check out Suzannah Raffield's blog [www.sparkflyconnect.blogspot.com](http://www.sparkflyconnect.blogspot.com) Get involved with her ministry and help make a difference in the lives of women around the world.

## Commitment

Consider starting or leading an Acteen group in your church.

Send a teenage girl to CrossRoads for an Acteens all-girl week. Take a [virtual tour](#) of CrossRoads on the WMUV web-site.

## Weekender Recap

live. move. be who you are. (Acts 17:28) was the theme for the Weekender 2007. One hundred and thirty teenage girls (Acteens) and their leaders traveled up the mountain road to CrossRoads Camp and Conference Center for a weekend full of adventure.

On Saturday, the girls participated in "be who you are" conferences where the topics ranged from dating to MySpace to being fashionable, but full of dignity. They challenged themselves in "move" conferences where the rock-wall, challenge course and hiking got them all moving. Some took a spiritual challenge and walked the Prayer Labyrinth. A few, the proud and later the incredibly sore hiked to a beautiful rock lookout on the top of Dismal Mountain. Other weekend highlights included a campfire, a coffee house and a concert by the Christian rock group - Phaseless.

The two keynote speakers challenged the girls to live, move and be who God created them to be, and to also be involved in social justice. Missionary Suzannah Raffield shared stories of women ministering to women around the world. Suzannah challenged the girls to take a stand on women's issues such as education, finances and medical care. Danielle Smith, the preacher for the weekend, took the girls back to the basics in the Bible. Danielle taught on the true source of life - God, who breathed life into them so that they can live, move, and be who God wants them to be.



The girls also participated in a mission project where they assembled birthing kits that will be sent to refugee camps in third world countries.

One of the most exciting things that happened this weekend was the offering that was collected. The offering is being sent to The Fistula Foundation, which provides free surgery for women suffering from obstetric fistula in Ethiopia. The teens gave \$900.00 which will pay for two of these restorative surgeries. This will change the lives of two women in Ethiopia, so they too can live, move and be fully who God created them to be.

[www.wmu-va.org/weekender07WebAlbum/index.html](http://www.wmu-va.org/weekender07WebAlbum/index.html)