

Washington D.C. (July 17th – 22nd)

AIM contact person for D.C.: We'll stay at a church in Virginia, about 13 miles from our ministry site. Ideally we will take lunch with us and eat at the ministry site.

D.C. looks like a nice, clean city on the surface but just behind that is poverty that people don't often see. DayBreak is right in the projects of D.C. They work year round, offering afterschool homework help and bible lessons for elementary and one-on-one mentoring for Jr. and Sr. High. It is likely that we will have the opportunity to partner with them for VBS.

Opportunities may also include working with various homeless ministries in soup kitchens and bringing water and sandwiches to homeless in parks, spending time and listening to the stories of the people there. Also we may go through D.C. on prayer walks, including praying for our government and president. Other ministry options may include community car washes, relational ministry on subways, or other street ministry, depending on our group's desires and where God is leading. We may be able to get a street performers license and play some worship music on the streets. AIM also has some connections with the D.C. housing authority and we may partner with them to do some clean-up work, light construction, and ministering to the elderly.

There is a chance we would be able spend a small chunk of time seeing and learning from an organization that works to end human trafficking and runs a safe house in D.C.

AIM overview: Your team will have the opportunity to come alongside local ministries to help continue the upward momentum in revitalizing the D.C. community.

Your outreach will center on building relationships and sharing Christ's love with needy inner-city children. In addition to the children's ministry you now may have the chance to partner with a new church plant for neighborhood outreach. There is also a potential for senior's ministry at a local retirement home as well as an opportunity to help clean out and refurbish some of the local projects. There is a critical need in this community as there are many who are unreached with the Gospel and who need to be shown the love of Christ.

Lodging will be at a local church, so a single-sized air mattress, bedding, and towels are recommended.

About D.C.: Washington D.C. is home to some of America's most prominent political and historical buildings. But if one looks just beyond the government buildings and tourist attractions, the city is struggling with the devastating effects of poverty, substance abuse, and crime. Once known as the murder capital of the United States, many D.C. neighborhoods are becoming safe and vibrant areas due to the effects of gentrification.

Situated comfortably on the on the north bank of the Potomac River, between Maryland and Virginia, Several community development initiatives are also underway to help families find employment and affordable housing, as well as lend support to the large number of children living in poverty.

Ministry Partner: DayBreak Ministries

"Our mission is to make an impact in Lincoln Heights with the message of Jesus Christ."

DayBreak was founded in 2001 by a group of young adults from McLean Bible Church who fell in love with the inner city community and wanted to make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ. Today, eight years later, DayBreak is a Christian organization dedicated to serving the children, families and individuals on an on-going basis in the community of Lincoln Heights in northeast Washington, DC.

Lincoln Heights is a low-income housing community in the northeast quadrant of Washington, DC. There are 440 units in the community and approximately 1,500 individuals. In 2006, medium household income was \$23,974, and the majority of the households are headed by single parents typically females. The community is plagued with drugs, violence, and crime, and individuals living in Lincoln Heights have great physical and spiritual needs.

In addition to Lincoln Heights, DayBreak serves a neighboring community, Richardson Dwellings. Some of the residents there participate in our large outreach events each year. One day, we hope to provide similar services to Richardson Dwellings as we currently do in Lincoln Heights.

Ashley's Comments: We'd stay in a different location that ministry site. Mostly likely doing children's ministry. Well established ministry. Possible learning from trafficking organization. Very relational homeless ministry. Legit street performer's license? That's pretty sweet.