



JOE HIRSCH (above) stood with two young men in the Dominican Republic during a Teens for Christ mission trip at the beginning of the month. Katie Glading (below) got her hair braided.



BECCA MASON, one of the adult volunteers, blew bubbles while four little girls giggled.

Teenagers and adults travel for summer mission trips

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Several Oberlin teenagers traveled throughout the states and to the Dominican Republic to minister to the young and old during Teens for Christ mission trips.

Doug Mason, who heads up the group in Oberlin, said he and his wife Johanna led the Dominican Republic team to Juan Dolio, which is 40 minutes outside the capital.

The team stayed at Score International, which is a sports ministry.

The team, which included eight teenagers and five adults, including their oldest daughter, Becca, traveled to different villages by bus. The teenagers from Oberlin on the trip were Joe Hirsch, Katie Glading and David Noren.

Every village, said Mr. Mason, has a baseball diamond. So the team would drive around the town in the bus and then stop at the baseball diamond. When the bus would pull up to the diamond, people from the village, mostly kids, would come running.

The team brought hula hoops, balls and frisbees. They spent about an hour playing with the kids and then would do a skit based on the Bible story of The Lost Sheep. Then, said Mr. Mason, they would sing several praise songs in Spanish.

In some of the villages the team would hand out candy.

The team would then have lunch at the base camp and head back out to another village in the afternoon.

One of the locations team where they ministered was a girls orphanage. The kids at the orphanage were so friendly. Their attitudes were so positive and they appreciated the attention.

The team did programs and traveled for two days.

On Sunday, they went to a church planted by Score International.

On Monday the team had a sight-seeing day, he said, then returned home. Each way meant two days of travel, said Mr. Mason, leaving only two days to minister.

The teens, said Mr. Mason, would like to go back and spend more time in the villages.

The team that had planned to go



WITH A KID on his back, David Noren talked with other youngsters while on the mission trip.

to Mississippi ended up getting re-routed to Arab, Ala., to work tornado relief. Brittany Urban, Caleb Koerperich and Matt Glading of Oberlin and Robert Reuther of Herndon were on that trip.

The team wanted to do work in an area where others weren't helping, said Mr. Mason. They spent a lot of time on a farm picking up debris and ripping down damaged walls.

The third mission team went to northwest Missouri, to a camp called God's Mountain. The camp is unique, said Mr. Mason, in that it doesn't charge for those attending.

This trip included 11 eighth graders and eight adults. They cleaned the camp and the buildings.

The camp had recently built a new

pond so a lot of the work was around that, said Mr. Mason.

This is the first time they have taken a team of eighth graders on a mission trip. In two days, he said, the team put in 18 hours of work.

The eighth graders are always anxious to go, said Mr. Mason, but lots of times the teams go into situations where the teens need to be more mature.

Those from Oberlin who went were Michael Noren and Austin Hendrickson.

There were nine teenagers in all on the Teens for Christ mission trips, said Mr. Mason. He added that they have never had those kind of numbers before.