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Impressions of the Master

BY ASHLEY MEYER

Earl Quiba had enjoyed acting since high school, but found few available opportunities to act before coming to Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. At the start of his freshman year, Earl auditioned for the drama ministry, Impressions of the Master.

Impressions was started by students as a ministry in 1998. With a current team of 15 students, the group performs skits and plays with a spiritual emphasis. Impressions witnesses to both the student body at Andrews and in the surrounding community, performing at churches and schools.

Impressions is just one of the many outreach ministry teams at

Andrews, but Earl was passionate about the importance of its ministry. “Jesus spoke in parables,” he said, “which provoked thought, and were a way for others to relate to what He was saying, another way to convey a deeper message. Sometimes a story, in itself, is just enough to provoke thought.”

One of Earl’s favorite performances told just such a story, in which a man was so dependent on those around him for love and support that it took the shock of his fiancé leaving him at the altar for him to realize that all he really needed was the love of God. That story really spoke to Earl, and he was delighted when he received comments from other people who also understood the message. “Some things just can’t be conveyed through sermons,” he recalled one friend telling him after a performance. Through Impressions, Earl believes he is making an important difference in people’s lives.

Earl continued to be involved in Impressions through his junior year. In fall 2011, he became a director of the group. Although excited about his new role in the ministry, Earl was grateful to lean on his team and co-director, Danika



The Impressions of the Master drama ministry team shares skits with important messages about the love of God on campus at Andrews University, and in local churches and schools.

Gallatin, for support. Finding venues to share their ministry proved unexpectedly difficult, however, and Earl soon became discouraged. A couple of months into the academic year, Impressions only had one performance scheduled. Naturally, the team longed to share the skits on which they had worked so hard and because they contained such important

messages about the love of God. The team met to discuss this challenge and decided that, even if they touched only one person through their performance, their effort would be worth it.

Quite unexpectedly, after two months with no scheduled performances, Impressions received five requests — more than Earl had hoped to receive for the entire semester. Earl and his team felt blessed by the unexpected opportunity to minister to so many people.

“I am more than astounded by the work God had done with our team and all the sudden opportunities He granted us when it seemed there weren’t going to be any,” Earl said. “It is encouraging to know that if one truly has the desire to serve others, God will afford him the opportunity to do so.”

For more information about Impressions, look for Impressions of the Master-Drama Ministry on Facebook, or email impressions.au@gmail.com.

Ashley Meyer is a student newswriter in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.