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Unification in Christ

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Each weekend during the school year, Andrews University creates an environment for expressions of worship and fellowship at the start of the Sabbath hours. On a Friday evening near the end of the school year, two of these expressions, Mosaic and Impact vespers services, were combined into a unifying program, MOSTPACT, giving University students the chance to reach a world in need.

“When Mosaic and Impact have joined together in the past, it feels like a pact, more unified,” says Coronel Lopez, Mosaic ministry leader. “This year we decided to end the year in unity and worship together for a good cause.”

That Friday night, approximately 400 students united in the Johnson Gym for the last vespers event of the 2008–2009 school year. Under the leadership of Coronel and Impact ministry leader, Unique Bolden, MOSTPACT combined the art, music and ministries of both worships into a benefit concert featuring University artists. Poverty, particularly a desire to “feed the children,” was addressed through music, poetry and other creative expressions.

The idea to combine Mosaic and Impact into a single benefit concert began several weeks earlier during a meeting between the campus worship teams and leaders. Coronel proposed a program that would benefit the needy children of Honduras, based on his missionary experiences in the country. The committee discussed the idea and agreed, deciding that the funds raised from the event would aid the First Lady’s Office at the Family and Children’s Institution in Honduras (INFHA), a R.E.A.C.H. International child-protective agency that serves as an orphanage for abandoned children.

As planning began, the worship was entitled “MOST-



Alison Schwirzer (front left) and Chauna Candy (front right) and friends perform two songs during the final Mosaic and Impact vespers service of the 2008–2009 school year.

PACT” as a symbol of unification on campus. The cross “T” in the center was to represent unification in worship with the cross, or Christ, as the center. The leaders also felt that this was a chance for students to grow together in their relationships with God.

During the service, students excitedly praised God and were blessed through varied presentations. “I felt impressed about what Heaven is going to be like

through the different styles and acts that people contributed that night. Also, the music was inspiring,” says Celeste Maldonado, a nursing major.

AU Improv was also involved, providing humor and entertainment between acts. All in all, students enjoyed a multifaceted display of thought-provoking performances. More than \$300 was collected from the students to benefit the Honduras orphanage. Plans for more combined services are being discussed for the 2009–2010 school year, and both groups are exploring ideas regarding unification in Christ.

Looking back on the efforts put into the MOSTPACT service, Coronel says, “I believe people got a lot out of the program. It wasn’t perfect, but it was a good trial run. I hope that as a result of this, more ideas to do something to this extent and encourage unification will come up.”

Asleigh Jardine is a student news writer at the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.