

4-2003

Andrews Academy Students SOW for God's Kingdom

KATRINA EMERY

Andrews Academy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs>



Part of the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

EMERY, KATRINA, "Andrews Academy Students SOW for God's Kingdom" (2003). *Lake Union Herald*. 741.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/741>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Lake Union Herald at Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Lake Union Herald by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

Andrews Academy Students SOW for God's Kingdom

BY KATRINA EMERY

Thirty of us Andrews Academy (AA) students snuggled into our own beds on January 13 for the first time in two weeks, happy to be back in a place where the showers were warm and long, toilet paper could be flushed down the toilet, and food included things other than rice and beans. Since December 28, we had been on a SOW (Service, Outreach, Witness) Safari in the Dominican Republic, building a church.

The church, designed by Maranatha Volunteers, Inc., was built in Los Jovillosk, a small village of about 2,000–3,000 people. Evangelistic meetings, presented by Sergio Rodriguez, a seminary student from Andrews University, and a Vacation Bible School (VBS) were held each night for the community.

We stayed in the town of Azua, about 15 minutes away from Los Jovillos, at *Colegio Adventista de la Americas*, the local Adventist school. Conditions were not perfect, but adequate. When a centipede was found in the boys'



The church building begins to take shape, bringing joy and satisfaction to the hard-working SOW (Service, Outreach, Witness) Safari workers.

room, senior Michael Gardner said, "It gave me goose bumps to think of it crawling around me as I slept."

The daily routine was to wake up at 6:15 a.m., eat breakfast, then board the bus for the trip to the job site where we worked hard until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. After a quick dinner and showers to wash away all the mortar and dirt, we rushed off to VBS and the meetings, getting home and to bed around 10:15 p.m., only to repeat the schedule again the next day.

Despite the hard work, we still had days off and a chance to have fun. Favorite activities on everyone's list included trips to the beach and the local ice cream store, which served flavors like passion fruit, coconut, and even corn.

On the job site, students wielded trowels, pliers, and hammers to construct the church. Three student supervisors—seniors Danielle Coon, Sara Vulicevic, and myself—were chosen to head up the work under Fred Specht, the building consultant from southern Indiana who accompanied the group.

"It was a hard job. I was totally unprepared in the beginning, but when I read the plans more, it was easier," Sara Vulicevic said.

The group labored hard for about nine days, and in the end, all but the tops of a few interior walls were completed.

"This church will make a huge difference in the community. It was already bringing people together," said Patricia Erhard, a Berrien Springs, Michigan, resident who accompanied the group along with her husband, Gary.



From left: José Feliz, bus driver; Katrina Hamel; Lennon St. Juste; Allan Chase, Andrews Academy principal; & Jaevan Harris enjoy socializing as they work.

As a result of the evangelistic meetings, 22 people were baptized while we were there, and more are planning to be baptized in the future. Even the bus driver, a man named José, started asking Pastor Rodriguez questions about his faith.



The pastor of the newly constructed church prepares to baptize some of the 22 new members.

"This was the smoothest trip I've been on, with the most cooperative, flexible students, who did the best job on the church," Sari Butler, SOW Safari director and AA guidance counselor, said. "I think we succeeded in ways that are more important than any other trip we've been on—22 baptisms and a church that will stay forever."

Katrina Emery is an Andrews Academy senior who participated in the SOW Safari mission trip.