Knock and the door will open. You grow in knowledge, in height, in credibility with friends, and in your own abilities. So too, you grow in who you are with God. The Bible says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Spiritual life offers a way to fulfill both these commandments within yourself and through other people.
I had no plans of being a part of student council until I saw a new flavor of Starburst on the council information desk. Chelsea Risinger, the Student Body President, told me I had to listen to what she had to say before I could have it. Once I heard about the chaplain position, I felt as though God wanted me to at least apply; whether I got the position or not was all a part of His plan. As to why the position is important, I would say it helps remind the class, as well as myself, that without God in our lives we are nothing. Christ is meant to be the center of our lives, but it is so easy to let other responsibilities get in the way of putting Him first. During my time as a chaplain I have been enlightened to the fact that people have the amazing ability to overcome. Classmates and friends have been through terrible things, and yet they still find joy in life. These were encouragements to me, reminding me that as bad as things may seem, it could be worse, and God is with us every step of the way. I have learned humility as well as furthering my leadership skills. I have been truly blessed to be doing this. I would like to thank my class for being transparent to me and allowing me to do the same. They are strong both mentally and spiritually, and I believe together we can further the Lord’s kingdom one person at a time. Be bold for Christ. Know that He is in this earthly fight with us.

-JP Bopp, Freshman Chaplain

I thought class chaplain was a unique opportunity to serve my class and Spiritual Life Council. I was familiar with the position last year and wanted to do a better job this year. I love investing in Spiritual Life ministry leaders and my own class. I wanted to get involved and thought it was a unique opportunity to serve my class and the school. I enjoy encouraging and refilling their cups and being a part of student life, as well as praying for the student body. I like being a part of peoples lives and letting them know that I care. I try to write a card or give a call when there have been moments of grief or tragedy. If someone ends up at the hospital I try to give them a text or a note to let them know I care and if they need me, I will be there. I believe that the role of class chaplain is beneficial and is a spiritual input too.

-Esther Paek, Sophomore Chaplain

I applied for class chaplain because I just felt that it was something that I would enjoy and learn a lot from, and I have! We plan and usually speak in class chapels that are held once a semester and we also encourage the Spiritual Life leaders that lead the ministries that we have here on campus. The class chaplaincy really helps bridge the gap (if there was a gap) between the student body and our University Chaplain, Mark Holcomb. In the chaplain meetings we have every week, we, as class chaplains, get to meet with Chaplain Holcomb and talk about what the students are saying and other things of that sort. Y'all are awesome. I couldn’t have imagined serving a better class than the Class of 2016 as class chaplain. Y’all are a blessing!

- Sayer Smith, Junior Chaplain

"Go forth and make a difference for the Kingdom. "

-Sayer Smith, Junior Chaplain
SENIORS! Praise the Only One Who Saves that I am able to graduate with of you! So many of you have been an integral part of my story, and I hope can say the same about one another when this is all said and done here at Olivet. Do you remember how Dr. Bowling has always called this university a “sending place?” Well I hope you do, because guess what? It is time to be sent off and make a difference in this broken world! Look at this apocryphal (I know, scary, but it is good!) quote:

“What distinguished [Christians] from others was not their country, language or customs, but how they acted… for them ‘every home was a foreign land’, but… ‘every foreign land was their home’… they themselves perceived this to be ‘the remarkable and admittedly unexpected nature of their politeia’ (209).” - Epistle to Diognetus from Bruce W. Winter’s Seek the Welfare of the City.

You will standout through your obedience. Take advantage of your immediate setting. Go mentor someone and be mentored. Seek the knowledge of how much God loves you which will dictate the strength of your faith and your contagious nature to others. And remember your identity in Christ and that you are a citizen of two worlds—heaven and earth, bringing the former to the latter.

Brothers and sisters, we are going to be scattered all over this planet, doing what only God can imagine. At times there will be trials and tribulations, doubts and worries, pains and sorrows, lies and deaths, but you already know what will remain and will be forever more constant than the temporaries I have listed above, that answer being our Savior. Jesus Christ reigns yesterday, today, and tomorrow and is the same forever and forever. Jesus, God in the flesh, came to fix and to redeem this little ball of soil. And not only the land, but the man He made from it. Jesus began to pray in the garden the night before His crucifixion, saying “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” It is a sweet belief that in that moment, God revealed the faces, lives, and struggles of humanity, yours and mine, to Jesus and without another word He stood up and returned to committed to His death. He looked at YOUR LIFE and said I CHOOSE TO DIE FOR YOU! Praise the Lord for His eternal mercy. He will never forsake us. He will never leave our side. And we have never stood taller in the eyes of the Lord than we do today. Go forth and make a difference for the Kingdom!

-Addison Newell, Senior Chaplain
Right: Most chapel services begin with a student worship team leading the student body in song. Joey Ramirez, Olivet’s worship coordinator, did a fantastic job both on stage and off as he prepared for and performed in chapel.

Far Above: Dr. James Diehl, the fall revival speaker, urged the student body to put Christ at the center of their lives.

Above: Winter Revival was led by Dr. David Sharpe, and he focused on the message of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Right: Susan Morrill led the student body into worship during the Fall Revival.

Joyous Journey
The return to campus in the fall also marks the return to Chapel. This fall, parables were explored as “windows” into the heart of God. “I’m not certain that the way we see God is who He really is,” explained Chaplain Mark Holcomb. “It is my hope to view the theme of Windows as a corrective lens to see God the way that Jesus wanted Him to be known.”

Fall guest speakers included author and YouTube sensation Jefferson Bethke, Disney animator Mark Henn, former World Vision president Kent Hill, as well as many others. Fall Revival featured Dr. James Diehl as the main speaker. Dr. Diehl, a pastor and Nazarene general superintendent emeritus of extensive background, returned to his alma mater to deliver sermons centered around putting God first in life. Returning to Olivet’s campus brought “memories floating back” to Dr. Diehl. “There is a tremendous spirit on campus. It has a very optimistic tone; you don’t feel that everywhere. It is heartwarming to know that my alma mater has improved over the years,” he states. Speaking to college students is exciting to Dr. Diehl because he can “see the potential of what they might do before life is over. That’s when I get paid,” he smiled, “when I can have a part in a life changing.”

One takeaway that Dr. Diehl hopes that everyone can remember after revival is that “being a Christian is a journey, not a one-time event, and it is a joyous journey.”

Spring brought about the theme of Reasonable Doubt. Winter Revival, featuring speaker Dr. David Sharpe, focused on the topics of forgiveness and reconciliation. To explore these areas, Dr. Sharpe spoke from the stories of Joseph, Peter, and the Prodigal Son. His hope for Winter Revival was that the Church would be a safe and forgiving place, reconciled to God. “No matter where you’ve been, you can find yourself in the story of God. There is always hope, life, and possibility. What has been marred by sin is restored by grace,” shared Dr. Sharpe. “When hearts are right, God is already there.”
Above: The Council spent time building community by going to a pumpkin patch together.

Every year the Spiritual Life Council hosts a festival of ministries. The theme of this year’s festival was “Poets” which is an acronym for “Put On Earth To Serve.” Michael Poff, VP for Spiritual Life, spoke in chapel about some of the goals the council has for the year and what it means to be involved in spiritual life ministries at Olivet. Poff shared with the student body what being a poet meant to him: “A poet is someone who has a gift and uses it uniquely.” He went on to say that it is important to “use your life as an eloquent expression of Christ.”

Spiritual Life Council works to provide various ministries which give students the opportunity to serve Christ. In a way, the Spiritual Life Council is the pencil students use to write their poetry onto the blank pages of the community. The purpose behind this year’s “Put On Earth To Serve” theme is for students to practice becoming first by becoming last and serving alongside one another as they serve Christ (Matthew 20:26-28).

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:26-28
Put on Earth to Serve

Left: Kyndall Singeltary and Kellie Klumb enjoy frozen apple cider and good conversation at the pumpkin patch outing.

Brlow: Esther Paek, the Sophomore class chaplain, shared her silly side by hopping on a tricycle.

Above: The Spiritual Life Council traveled to the Michigan City Harbor beach to support the Water for Water swimmers as they collectively swam over 40 miles.

Above: Lindsay Hathaway, co-leader of HeART, showed off the cute little pumpkin that she chose at the pumpkin patch.
Matthew Bieber, co-leader of Party with Jesus, shared his heart with the students and prayed before worship began.

Wonder 630, a new program this year, brought in artists each week to share their music and lead the students in communal worship.

Along with musical artists, Wonder 630 also brought a variety of individuals, such as Dr. David Claborn to speak to the students.

Party with Jesus offered a chance for students to come together and worship in an open setting outside of chapel.

"Growing together as a community is something that we are really passionate about," Link, senior, says as she explains how Party With Jesus would like to engage students in the worship provided. Since the focus of the ministry is on the Olivet campus, anyone and everyone who is interested in participating is welcomed with open arms and smiling faces.

Another campus worship opportunity, Wonder630 takes place on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm in College Church. Wonder 630 is an open space to express deep thoughts and discuss them freely. Artists come to share music before thinkers such as political science professor Dr. David Claborn and communications professor Dr. Jay Martinson give a message. Hannah Davis, a junior, says that she attends Wonder630 often and that her favorite part is listening to the speakers. Jonathan Burkey, associate pastor at College Church and coordinator of Wonder630, says that the event is an important part of the week at College Church because “it is an opportunity to seek truth and express the gifts that God has given them.”
Senior co-director of Lifesong, Dustin Dehart described the group as “a huge opportunity for very gifted people to come together to share the talents God has given them.” As a music ministry group, Lifesong is a way for the two bands to share profound experiences with others and worship with them in a way that may be new or different than what they are used to. Dehart says that the travelling aspect of the ministry is his favorite. Throughout the year, Lifesong visits nearby churches to provide music for services or various events. “There’s nothing like getting out on the road with these guys, bonding, meeting new people, and building relationships with pastors, youth, and congregations,” Dehart shares.

Above Left: When asked about why he enjoys Lifesong, Daniel Kwak stated, “I enjoy Lifesong because it reminds me that God gives us the ability to connect with not only our identities but also our gifts.”

Above: Lifesong allows students to express their talents and God-given gifts and also build relationships with other band members.

Left: Tate Garner and the rest of the Lifesong crew led worship during Jumpstart.
Right: FCA members played the trash out game to relieve stress from the week. The objective was to pull opponents toward the trash can. Unfortunately there weren't three strikes in this game—any player who touched the trash can was out.

Above: Simon Pheasant, one of the FCA leaders, welcomed everyone to their weekly meeting and explained that night's activities.

Right: Jennifer Buhr and Jessica Higer took athletic competition to the next level by playing Wii Sports at an FCA meeting.
The members of FCA took a break during a finals study session to play a game. Everyone held hands in the middle and tried to transform the human knot into a circle without breaking the chain.

The Warming House gets sporty on Tuesday nights at 8:45 when Fellowship of Christian Athletes arrives for fun, worship, and discussion. Meetings consist of playing games, listening to the praise band and a speaker, and discussing the message in small groups. Yearly events include a Halloween party, a Christmas party, Field Day, and the Fields of Faith event for the South Chicago District. Fields of Faith is an event held for different FCA “huddles” to get together and encourage each other every fall.

FCA is a very motivated club that focuses on building each other up in a supportive and Christ-centered environment. Leaders Seth Erickson and Simon Pheasant mention that FCA’s plans for the year include serving the community with other Olivet ministries and supporting the FCA huddle at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School. Pheasant shares, “I want to help create an environment that allows God to move among us and help us grow into better servants of Christ.” Erickson says that his goal is to build an environment that challenges athletes to live their lives and compete in their sports to bring honor to God. They agree that FCA exists to provide unique worship experiences to athletes and help them become “better equipped to spread the Gospel through [their] God-given physical talents.”

Above: Huddled up for discussion, the FCA team devoted some meeting time to grow spiritually. Friendships and bonds were created as the club supported each other in their individual walks with Christ.
The members of Mission Possible work with the men and women of Jerome Combs Detention center, sharing the love of Jesus Christ with them through meaningful conversation. Leaders Chrissy Michaels and Courtney McGee focus on seeing these men and women come to believe in the healing powers of Jesus’ love, and to begin to take their spiritual relationship more seriously. The group connects with the inmates through worship nights and holiday parties throughout the year. Courtney McGee says that Hebrews 13:3 and Matthew 25:36 inspire her most to be a leader with this group of people. She says that there have been many days she has gone down to the jail, feeling spiritually dry, and is reminded of the light and joys that are brought on by God through her time with the men and women they work with. Chrissy Michaels shares a similar experience, “I honestly never thought I could be a leader for this ministry ... to go into a place where most Christians would not even imagine stepping foot into. But the students involved in this ministry know that everyone deserves a chance to hear about Christ no matter their situation or background.” Through it all, Mission Possible strives to bring light to the darkness, in the lives of both the inmates they work with and the volunteers who continue to devote their time to the ministry.
Olivet’s mission Life Support works at a women’s health center, bringing comfort and assistance to the workers and the patients they encounter. Junior Liza Dollenbacher talks of events planned for the mission, including events planned in December for students to share stories of their experiences working in the health center. When asked what drew her to the mission, Dollenbacher says, “I just like the aspect of promoting life and helping in the background. We hear so many awesome stories. I enjoy leading people while at the same time using one another’s talents to better the group.” She loves working with the women at the health center, knowing that they have chosen to preserve the life of their child. Life Support hopes to use their events and fundraisers to promote awareness around the pro-life movement.

Far Above: The members of Life Support helped to collect and sort clothes for the babies.

Above Left: Service for this ministry did not just look like sorting clothes and spending time with the women who came into the women’s health center but also being good stewards of the center.

Above Middle: Different clothes were gathered for different ages of the babies to help the mothers who came into the center.

Above Right: Kylie Bradley worked to serve the women and their babies by helping at the center and showing God’s light.

Left: Liza Dollenbacher led Life Support and worked with other women from Olivet to serve the women at the center.
Many students created signs to display while they spent the week homeless. Some were more humorous, but all encouraged students to donate money to Gift of God homeless shelter.

The Warming House became a makeshift community where the students could warm up and spend the night.

Students gather around the Warming House firepit in the evenings during Homeless Week to stay warm and build community.

Trevor Speer passed the time spent outside between classes by playing his ukulele.

Jason Ottinger sits in the quad with his sign that encouraged students to donate to Gift of God homeless shelter.

Experiencing Homelessness
“Save Our Streets is just a name, just a specified focal area of our all-around service to the Kingdom of God,” stated Levi Himes, co-leader of Olivet’s homeless ministry. “We are called to love, we are called to serve the least of these, and we are called to take up the problems and struggles we all share as the Body instead of individually. We are not a ministry seeking to relinquish poverty all together, but simply a ministry seeking to lower ourselves and share our blessings.”

Himes, along with co-leader Vittoria Miulli, work alongside Olivet students to serve the Gift of God Homeless Shelter and Street Church. In addition to their work at the shelter, Save Our Streets also takes monthly trips to Chicago in order to provide prayer, food, warm clothing, and conversation to the poor and impoverished of the city.

Not only does Save Our Streets work to serve and love people in these tangible ways, but the ministry also partakes in an annual Homeless Week event.

“Homeless Week is not simply to ‘be homeless’ for a week,” explained Himes. “The role play of the week is the smallest purpose that the ministry is seeking to pursue through the event. The past two years it has been used as a fundraiser for the Gift of God Shelter. Not only that, but the week is a time for students participating to drop everything in their lives, except classes and school work, and this allows times to meditate and count their blessings. It is a time to reflect on how easy they have it. It is meant to be a time of experiencing some form of hardship and stepping out of a comfortable life for a short time. It also lays the issue of homelessness on the table in front of the whole campus.”

“Homeless Week was amazing,” said senior participant Luke Kamely. “It was probably characterized by some of the most free-spirited fun I’ve had at Olivet, as well as some of the worst nights of sleep I’ve had at Olivet. But what’s most important is that even though we might not be having a “true homeless experience,” it has certainly started a bit of discussion about homelessness on the campus, and that’s what it’s really about: raising awareness and raising donations for the shelter.”

Above: Students had to carry everything with them and were only allowed inside for classes. Students, such as Evan Sherar, spent all the rest of their time outdoors and even slept on the ground outside during Homeless Week.
According to Best Buddies leader Shannon Grant, the ministry’s purpose is reaching out to and building friendships with individuals who have developmental disabilities. The ministry does so by forming one-on-one friendships with their Buddies, as well as building a community by planning events for everyone to come together once a month. As Jesus commands us to love one another, Shannon Grant and Sydney Houzena encourage their ministry to create relationships with the Buddies that are rooted in the love and compassion of Christ. Their hope is that His name would be better known through Best Buddies!

Shannon Grant joined Best Buddies upon arrival to Olivet after the ministry “sparked” her interest and was something she felt called to, due to one of her greatest passions being spending time with and building relationships with people that have developmental disabilities. Grant grew up with an autistic cousin who has had an “incredible impact” on her life, and because of that, she loves showing the world that people with special needs are really no different than everyone else.

Grant developed a deep love for the ministry throughout her freshman year and decided that she wanted to be even more involved by becoming a leader. Grant’s favorite part of Best Buddies is the dancing! The Buddies love dancing so much that it makes Grant love it even more. She also values getting to talk to her Buddy one-on-one because it’s a “great opportunity to be able to try and have important conversations.” Her favorite Best Buddies event is the Halloween event, which has always been a huge success and is loved by the Buddies. Olivet students and their Buddies took part in a costume contest, Bingo, a donut eating contest, dancing, outside games, fun snacks, and awesome fellowship.

Grant says that she’s seen God work through the ministry both in and through the Olivet members as well as the Buddies. She shared that God has brought so many incredible Olivet students with willing and passionate hearts for the ministry, and that it has been so sweet to see His faithfulness through providing for the ministry in that way. According to Grant, the ministry is “incredibly unique and offers a different way to both share and encounter Christ.”
The Evangels are a ministry on campus that brings together the elderly and college students by building relationships that are centered on Christ. The ministry’s mission statement is based on Job 12:12 which states, “Wisdom belongs to the aged, and understanding to the old.” Ministry leader Kellie Klumb explains that the purpose of the ministry is to “learn from and value the wisdom and understanding that the nursing home residents have to offer.”

The students visit the nursing home twice a week to visit with residents, build relationships, and focus on God. There is an event held every month for the residents and the ministry members to participate in. In September, the group played Bingo, and in October, they watched a movie together.

Freshman Drew Leman felt called over the summer to volunteer in a nursing home, but didn’t know when he’d have the opportunity. Upon arriving at Olivet, he discovered that there was a ministry that volunteered at the nursing home, and it became apparent that God wanted him to work with Evangels. Leman’s favorite part of visiting the nursing home is how “warm and welcoming the residents are. It’s as if they’re ministering to us as much as we are to them.” Leman also claims that seeing God work in the nursing home and through the ministry will help him in his ministerial career as a youth pastor. “I never really appreciated senior citizens, but God has shown me through this ministry that just by sitting down and having a conversation, that all people can bond in the name of Jesus.”

Junior Becca Mooi also feels called to work with the elderly. Her favorite part of visiting the residents is hearing their life stories. “It’s amazing to see the connections you can make with someone new,” says Mooi. In the future, she sees “God using Evangels to not only spread love to the residents, but to also have the residents teach the students about the lasting faithfulness of God.” Mooi says she gets to meet a new resident every week and has even had a resident offer to teach her to knit.

Junior Greg Planck enjoys singing hymns with the elderly because even though many of them are not able to speak clearly, they are always able to remember the hymns they grew up singing. Grace Savage adds that she really loves “just sitting and talking. They’ve experienced so much more of life than I could ever imagine.”

Above: Shelby Delaney spends time with her Buddy during the Halloween party. Olivet hosts several events for the members of Best Buddies on campus throughout the year.

Far Above: Students spend time listening to the residents of the nursing home and learning from their wisdom.

Above: Best Buddies offers students the chance to partner with a member of Shapiro’s community. Ryan Degutis built a relationship with his buddy through events and visits throughout the school year.
Far Right: Kyndall Singletary was happy to lend a helping hand to Habitat for Humanity.

Right: Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity involves precise measurement, such as measuring the wood that will go into the window frame.

Above: Ryan Degutis got a handle on things while installing some shiny new door knobs for a house being worked on by Habitat for Humanity.

Right: Though the table saw might look easy to operate, the volunteers had to stay focused to make the perfect cut.
Nick Geever, a leader in the Habitat for Humanity Ministry at Olivet, shared what it means to be a member of the organization as well as some of the collective goals for the club.

Q: What is the purpose of Habitat for Humanity?
A: To provide a house for someone who doesn’t have one, or use our hands and feet to in some way further the Kingdom by offering our time and services.

Q: Does Habitat for Humanity do any activities throughout the year? If so, what are they?
A: Yes, we serve the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity itself and build a house each year for someone in our community who does not have one, as well as help at other ministries doing similar work when possible. For example, we are partnering with Compassionate Ministries and serving out in Pembroke.

Q: What inspired you to get involved in Habitat for Humanity?
A: I just have a huge passion for helping people especially through providing for unmet needs. So this ministry was perfect. I have always loved building and working with tools and stuff, so putting it all together just made sense.

Q: What are this year’s goals for Habitat for Humanity?
A: We have a few major goals, among which are improved methods of communication from previous years, utilizing more mediums of communication than just email, as well as getting more female participants involved with the ministry, and finding leaders to lead the ministry in future years.

Q: What are your personal goals for being in Habitat for Humanity this year?
A: I think my personal goal is to not only make an impact and some lasting relationships with people during my time at Habitat, but also to help other people to find their niche in the ministry.

Above: The progress and renovation that Olivet student volunteers made on this house would sweep you off of your feet!
Visiting Hopkins Park

Olivet’s Disciplers take their mission off campus to serve the children of Hopkins Park. While there, student volunteers help teach the kids Bible verses and give them examples of what it means to be Christ-like. Leader Anthony St. Yves says he wanted to lead this ministry “because I felt like God put this as an opportunity to not only give me experience as a leader, but so I could also help further the ministry in its goal of helping kids LEARN the Bible.” Through games and lessons, the Disciplers are giving the kids of Hopkins Park a deep understanding of what it really means to be a Christian.

Below: Students ministered to the children by teaching them about Christ. They showed His love to them with acts of service and the simple things like tying their shoes.

Above left: Students who served in Disciplers really enjoyed their time working with the children and with the others in the group.

Above Right: Hannah Gorecki, a freshman, jumped right in and served with Disciplers. In her first year she was able to work alongside other upperclassmen from Olivet.

Right: The children of Hopkins Park might not have always had the opportunity to be surrounded by positive, encouraging, Christ-like role models but when Disciplers came they devoted their time 100% to the children.
Urban Children’s Ministry meets in the Warming House where many students came to play, minister and work with the children from the community.

Kyle Sleik spent time mentoring the younger generation.

The students who worked with the children had a real heart and calling to serve in this way.

For students with a passion for working with children, Urban Children’s Ministry is a perfect fit. As leader Stacey Knoderer says, the ministry’s mission this year is “to serve children in the community and to teach them about Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.” The team sets up fun events for the kids to attend, such as trick-or-treating through Olivet’s apartments and a Christmas party. The students involved in this ministry take personal interest in the children, and help them to develop personal relationships with Christ. Stacey says that learning the kids’ backgrounds is a large motivator in wanting to help them strengthen their faith. On leading the ministry, Stacey says, “It seemed only natural to apply to lead it. I love hearing the stories from the college students about how much their buddies are growing!” She emphasizes that the focus of Urban Children’s Ministry is really on the kids in the program. She hopes to continue finding new ways for the kids to be served and led by the college volunteers.
Every Thursday night, this Olivet group gathers to take part in something that is quickly pushed aside in the fast-paced lifestyle of a college student: prayer. Junior Andrew Fischer, one of the Prayer Warriors’ leaders this year, says that it’s something so easily forgotten. “Prayer is something we don’t do enough, myself included! It’s definitely something that has been laid on my heart to focus on.” Prayer Warriors hosts two large prayer gatherings each year that are 15 and 24 hour events for people to continuously come in and pray. They have also teamed up with other groups in the past to gather more spiritual support. Fischer first learned about the group through an event connected with Compassionate Ministries. “I didn’t even know what Prayer Warriors was, honestly! But once I heard about what they were doing, I got really excited to be a part of it.” Although their meetings take place in Kelley Prayer Chapel, the group hopes that the power of prayer will be spread far and wide.
Throughout the year, Olivet’s ministry group Heart for Missions has been prayerfully acting throughout our campus to support those who have a calling for missions. Junior Ashley Schmitt felt called to lead the group and inspire a passion for missions within its members. Schmitt says through the group, “We learn, grow, and encourage each other.” One way the group has created a stronger bond was through their hosting of both The Poverty Meal and a Thanksgiving meal for International students to attend. The group stresses that missions can be seen in all shapes and sizes and that it’s important for our campus to be mindful about mission-centered opportunities. Schmitt says, “If we learn how to be globally and mission minded now, it will help us make a difference for Christ wherever we are.”
HeART is more than a club. HeART is a ministry that focuses everything they do on glorifying God. Sophomore Joy Katenkamp says, “HeART gives people an outlet to worship God through arts outside of music.” Anyone who has a passion for art in the pursuit of worshipping God is welcome to join the weekly meetings. HeART’s goal is to “create a community of artists who work together with the community through art.” This is done mostly through working on projects for other ministries to build up their work as well. HeART not only provides the campus of Olivet with God-praising art, but also reaches into the community to share God’s love through their art. Katenkamp says that the ministry of HeART is focused on “improving the community on and off campus.”

One way that HeART contributed to the Olivet community was by working on a piece of art each time Chaplain Holcomb spoke in chapel. The leaders of HeART, Joy Katenkamp and Lindsay Hathaway, would sit on stage and work on the painting during the sermon. A camera would occasionally show their progress on the piece throughout the message. At the end of the semester, the painting was revealed to be the face of Jesus. The piece was created by dripping ink and water to form shapes in specific locations on the canvas form the image. The combination of a meaningful sermon and eye-catching art during chapel services throughout the semester added a unique flavor and brought several expressions of worship together in one place.

Above Left: Emily Lohr helped a child cut colored construction paper to create feathers for his Native American headband in celebration of Thanksgiving.

Above Right: The finished product of the semester-long HeART project created by Joy Katenkamp and Lindsay Hathaway was a portrait of Christ. The HeART leaders painted the piece with india ink during various chapel services throughout the fall semester.

Right: Lindsay Hathaway guided her focused friend as they cut their construction paper together. With teamwork on their side, a colorful Native American headband was created.
“Loving Like Jesus” is the slogan of Compassionate Ministries this year. “Our goal is to be the hands and feet of Christ,” says junior co-leader Katie Reed. Continuing Christ’s service is an important aspect of Compassionate Ministries’ work in the community. The focus of the service that they do is to follow Jesus’ example and build relationships with the people around them. A motivating factor in the ministry is the belief that as followers of Christ, Christians are called to be like Him. Reed adds, “If we want to be like him, we have to follow His heart of compassion and service.”

A major project of Compassionate Ministries this year is the development program in Pembroke Township. Every other Saturday, volunteers travel to Pembroke to support the community in the development process. The tagline of Empowered to Empower is evident in the building up of spiritual, physical, emotional, and socioeconomical aspects of the community. To battle illiteracy, Compassionate Ministries partners with Student Education Association, Kappa Delta Pi, and Enactus to promote professionalism within the township. Compassionate Ministries is also in the process of putting together a children’s choir within the Pembroke community.
Loren Crawford traveled with the MIA team to Swaziland, Africa as a part of the “Missioneering” trip.

Olivet has the privilege of housing our very own department devoted to missions — Missions in Action. Whether you’re looking for a short-term trip over spring break or decide to take a few weeks to work over the summer, MIA has opened up countless doors for students with a passion for serving in the mission field.

Senior Melyssa Fitzpatrick has certainly seen these opportunities open up for her. She was given the privilege of acting as co-leader for the Summer 2014 Honduras trip. She first went with the 2013 ONU team as a student team member. Since taking the role of leader, Fitzpatrick has learned to “step back a little, and learn to let other people do things.” She desired for her team members to experience the joy of serving just as she had first experienced it the summer of 2013. Her two trips have allowed her to create lasting bonds with the orphanage in Santa Barbara. She hopes she will see some of the older kids begin to take on more responsibilities, and start helping at the orphanage just as they were once helped by the loving staff. Fitzpatrick realizes that missions are not for everyone, but she encourages people to remain engaged in the efforts being made. “Don’t let that stop you from caring about what’s going on around the globe, around your nation, or in your hometown.”

The MIA trip to Indianapolis is one example of Missions in Action right here in the United States. Junior Tiara Long was a team member on the Spring 2014 trip. “I got the privilege of working with students one-on-one with homework while watching them grow and develop their schoolwork.” Doing short term missions has allowed Long to reflect on all the ways she can be sharing God’s love. “I often forget that I’m a missionary, right here, right now. I’ve been overseas before, and it made me realize how much we need God here as well.” She acknowledges the importance of seeing cultural differences within our own country and hopes that others recognize the need to spread love in their every day lives.

Through all experiences represented in Olivet students’ mission trips, it is clear that God has moved in powerful ways. Whether working far away from home, or just a quick three-hour drive from campus, it is important to remember to keep our eyes open for the doors opened to us.
Below: Jake Hileman traveled to Cambodia and got to see God’s hand at work around the world.

Far Below: Jordan Lingle, Cal Samuelson, and Lucas Sorensen traveled to the Congo and acted as male role models for the children the team was working with.

Left: Daniel Hegel traveled to India and poured into the lives of the members of the community.

Above: The team that traveled to Thailand experienced many aspects of Thai culture and even got the opportunity to visit an elephant camp.

Left: Melyssa Fitzpatrick was one of the co-leaders on the Honduras Trip.