FAITH
“The coolest thing that has and is happening to me is the noticeable transformation and conformation to Jesus that has been brought about by the Holy Spirit in my life. It’s genuine, tangible, and amazing to see as I work out my faith, that God is literally giving me the will and power to do what pleases him.”

-Courtney McGee

“So this summer I was sitting on a park bench praying that God would give me opportunities to share Christ with others in a real life situation. As I was praying, a guy rolled up on his bike and stopped right in front of me. I said “What’s up?” and he turns and says “You’re on the bench I usually sit on on my way to work.” I said “Hey, no problem man I’ll leave” because this was a rough looking dude. Instead the guy says “Nah I’ll just sit on the ground man.” Before I knew it, I was having a conversation with this guy, Raven, and the more I talked to him the more crazy it got. I soon realized this man was homeless and working three cook jobs to get a vehicle to live in. Then it became pretty clear that Raven was transsexual. I thought “man God, I know you put this man in front of me to share your love but I don’t know where to begin with this guy.”

But over the next 3 weeks I got to go to that park bench morning after morning to share the gospel with Raven. I remember walking back from the park bench that first morning thinking that was the coolest thing that could possibly have happened...You’re a stud God.”

-Vaughan Meiss
“I love the way she wants to be with me. And the way she desires to be all of her, in everything she does.”

“I love his simplicity. He never tries to elevate himself. He has a sweet and simple heart.”

–Hannah Sohl and Caleb Cornell

“One time at camp we put our names on a piece of paper and the camp was going to give the pieces of paper to people in the district to pray for us. A few years ago when my fiance was interviewing for a job at a church an older lady and I got to talking and turns out she had been praying for me since that day, she had journals and journal full of prayers she had prayed for me.”

–Jon Hand
“You and I are not responsible for earning God’s love.”
Mike Yankoski

“Your life can change in a moment, in one day, in one encounter with God.”
Dr. John C. Bowling

“True success is using the talent God has given you to elevate others.”
Dr. Ben Carson

“You’re a sculptor too – shaping the image of Christ for those who are watching.”
Scott Stearns

“You have to decide what you’re going to do with the Gospel.”
Katie Reed

“God’s promise is stronger than our behavior.”
Jefferson Bethke

“The skin is the surface of the soul.”
Dr. Mark Quaeström

“You have to decide what you’re going to do with the Gospel.”
Katie Reed

“Stop through the fear and do something beyond yourself.”
Mike Chinwood

“The Church must be a healing place, a hospital for sinners.”
Dr. David Busic

“Give small moments of encouragement to one another every day, be present.”
Rez Paul Johnson

“In the wilderness, in the tough place, the Holy Spirit sustains you.”
Gabriel and Jeanette Salguero
Many of the most challenging but renewing moments of 2015-16 took place during Fall Revival, Spring Revival and the weekly chapel services. During the Fall Revival services, Dr. Scott Daniels spoke to Olivet as Christians in exile. Drawing from prophetic books such as Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Hezekiah, Daniels compared the Israelites' time in exile to our lives in exile among a secular society.

"I liked how applicable Dr. Daniels' messages were to us as students," said freshman Camrie Maxon. "Since he talked about how we are being shaped by the culture around us, he helped us to see that in comparison to how God wants us to live."

Several times, Dr. Daniels called students to follow God's influence in their lives rather than be squeezed into the world's mold. In the last revival service, Dr. Daniels reminded those in attendance of God's great love when he said, "When we find ourselves in a place of exile, we serve a God who refuses to let sin have the last word. Instead, His grace will always have the last word."

Wednesdays and Thursdays started on Olivet's campus with chapel services led by speakers like Jefferson Bethke and Michael Chtwood. After worship with Joey Ramirez and a cycle of talented musicians, Centennial Chapel was filled with messages about being "Called by God" and learning to live "Life Together". Among the most notable speakers were Presidential Candidate Ben Carson on God's work with humble beginnings and Scot McKnight on readjusting your worldview.

At Spring Revival Dr. David Busic spent the week talking to Olivet about grace and peace. Dr. Busic shared that he believed that true grace and peace can only be found in the Church because the Church has the ultimate example right in front of it all the time. Consistent and overwhelming grace and peace are the ideals that Jesus carried out and that the Church strives toward. The life changing moments students had at these services left them with new perspective and a new Spirit within, pulling everyone as a community closer to Christ.
JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN
Urban Children’s Ministry and Disciplers

One of Olivet’s most defining features is its student-led ministries. It is a miraculous thing for college-age students to take it upon themselves to be a light unto the world as they feel God has called them to be. Of the many ministries on Olivet’s campus, two in particular act as servants to the smallest and purest of God’s people: children. The ministry groups Disciplers and Urban Children’s Ministry both take it upon themselves to bring the light of the Lord to the children of the local area. The Disciplers ministry is a group of Olivet students who work as leaders and mentors to students from kindergarten to 8th grade at a camp called Bible Witness Camp in Pembroke. The camp days are on Mondays and Wednesdays—Monday is the boy’s camp and Wednesday is the girl’s. Member Elizabeth Chapman said, “I work with the seventh and eighth grade girls on Wednesday nights. My favorite thing about Disciplers is the relationship I get to form with the girls that I am mentoring. I feel that the relationship that we in Disciplers make with the students we mentor will help them have a stronger relationship with God throughout their life.”

The members of Disciplers have a passion for mentorship and a desire to spread God’s love to a newer generation and a group of kids that may not have any other exposure to that love. Disciplers leader Nichole Goumas said, “These kids come from homes where many of them don’t receive a lot of attention and love. So when we go every week, we get to love on them and show them Christ’s love through the things we say and do. That’s my favorite part of the ministry—the kids.”

Another ministry feels similarly. Members of Urban Children’s Ministry reach out to at-risk children in the inner city, offering Christ-centered activities and mentoring programs. When asked about her favorite part of the ministry, Katie Maurer, co-leader of UCM said, “My favorite part of UCM is being about to see our kids’ friendship with their college buddies grow. Each week they touch each other’s lives in different ways. The college students have a responsibility to the kids and kids have great role models.”

These symbiotic relationships formed between the children and the college students in both of these amazing ministries create great opportunities for God to work in the lives of innercity children.
Evangel's

The Evangels ministry shared the love of Christ with the residents of the nursing home. They sought to build meaningful relationships with senior residents.

"Co-leading this ministry allowed me to experience the love of Christ through the residents at the nursing home and to see the ways that Christ is working through the ministry," said co-leader and senior Kellie Klumb. "One of my favorite parts of this ministry was having the opportunity to meet with residents and listen to their stories and all the wisdom that they share."

When asked what one word was that described the ministry, she said passionate. Passion was what drove the ministry. Members of this ministry carried a burning passion to befriend the senior residents and to witness the love of Christ changing many hearts.
Willis said. “I was so thankful for it every single time I got a phone call from my buddy Michael or got to go visit him.”

A lot of the students who participated in this ministry said that meeting new friends and getting to know their buddies was their favorite part as well. They showed that love knows no bounds through their eagerness to befriend those with disabilities at Shapiro.

“I also really liked being able to spend time with my buddy and being able to have such an impact made on me through him and the time that we were able to spend together,” sophomore Bethany Luchtenburg said. The ministry believed that people are meant to be loved, and their hearts cared for. Whatever might make them different, only makes them beautifully unique.

Since love knows no bounds, the Best Buddies Ministry strived to pour love on people despite their differences.

“By leading this ministry, I have learned just how capable individuals can be,” said Best Buddies co-leader and junior Emily Willis. “I’ve realized that whether a person was born with a disability or not, they are able to do so many things when given the opportunity and resources to achieve.”

Best Buddies focused on serving those with disabilities. They sought to pour out their time and effort to love them with the love they deserved.

As the members continued to serve others throughout the year, their eyes were opened to the depth and goodness of God’s love. One of the amazing things about the ministry was the ability to foster lasting relationships with the individuals.

“My favorite part of being in Best Buddies was having all of these wonderful relationships with people that I would never be able to have without this incredible organization,” Willis said. “I was so thankful for it every single time I got a phone call from my buddy Michael or got to go visit him.”

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One of the bravest and most noble ministries, Mission Possible, has reached out to a local prison to deliver the gospel to its residents. The prison ministry worked hard this year to make the seemingly impossible possible.

"It’s been truly a blessing to display the love of Christ as we brought encouragement, prayer, and the Word of God into a place full of so much darkness," sophomore Josh Dille said. The members of Mission Possible worked hard this year to fulfill Jesus’ calling from Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

These words led many new members of the ministry to take the step outside their comfort zone and follow Christ’s example by ministering and going where God was calling them to be. Many inmates have been under the impression that students were somehow forced to visit and talk with them.

“When they found out that we simply desired a relationship with them in the same way that Jesus desires a relationship with them, it was shocking—emotionally, mentally, and spiritually,” said junior Caroline Miller.

The members of Mission Possible wanted more than anything to simply build relationships with the people at the detention center. “My favorite part has definitely been the relationships that I made with inmates and with the other members of our ministry,” co-leader Victoria Hess said. Building relationships by sharing Christ with those who needed His Word is what has made this ministry’s mission possible.
People do not often associate sports with religion; the two do not always seem to fit into the same category. They do, however, for one national initiative, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). FCA made it their goal for years to bring the two worlds of faith and sport together, both on and off the field. After fun and fellowship, which occasionally involved crab soccer or a hamster named Peaches, Olivet’s FCA chapter took the mission of FCA to heart and turned to Scripture to ask some hard questions. Olivet’s FCA made Jeremiah 1:5 their theme for the year. The verse reads, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” This year, FCA used this verse to explore the idea of identity.

“We used this passage because it amplified that God has formed each one of us unique with different gifts and abilities, and we are appointed to set ourselves apart in Christ,” said sophomore Todd Sutter. Questioning where their identities came from and the kind of people they were being led to be opened the door to many meaningful discussions for the members of FCA.

“Our goal was to place our identity in Christ first then everything else will follow,” said leader Jonathen Robey. Athletic or otherwise, FCA’s events were a great time for members to bring their two worlds together through fellowship with other athletic believers and to spend time with the Word.
You have to decide what you’re going to do with the Gospel.”

Katie Reed

IN LIGHT OF FOREVER

In Light of Forever. The Spiritual Life kept that theme close as they lived and served with an eternity in mind.

“My challenge for the ministry co-leaders was to have an eternal mindset and continuously ask themselves, ‘What are we doing today to be bringing people with us?’” said Katie Reed, VP of Spiritual Life.

The council used the theme to focus on acting intentionally and leading others to Christ. Reed aspired to cause the campus ministry leaders to evaluate their urgency in regards to eternity. Spiritual Life leaders considered urgency in this area to be of the utmost importance because of the eternal consequences of this life. An eternal perspective can be difficult to uphold and share, but Senior Class Chaplain Levi Himes said that this theme was carried out well across.

“While we are diverse and different, we are the united body of Christ,” Himes said. “And we are all leading different parts of that body.”

This diversity is what enabled the council to reach as many different areas of Olivet’s campus as possible. While the council sought God themselves, they led the student body to Him in any way they could.

“We all have a passion for serving and for the Lord, we all love to see people impacted by the Gospel,” said Disciplers Ministry co-leader Nichole Goumas. “The Spiritual Life Council works hard to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to reach out to Jesus.”

As they lived “In Light of Forever,” the council members took on a unique challenge with time-sensitive urgency that they rose to throughout the year.
A LETTER OF HOPE

An anonymous student was inspired to write and deliver this note of encouragement to every single woman on campus. Her heart reflects the genuine Spirit and selfless motivation that truly filled this university with light.

You are meant for greatness.
You were created for something much more than ordinary.
Your life holds within it more purpose than you can fathom.

You have the potential to impact, change, influence, and save the lives of those around you. Whether that be through your vocation, ministry, friendships, experiences, adventures, chance, or destiny. You are here – right here – for something you may never be able to understand, but will fulfill to its greatest possibility if you find your identity in who you were created by and whom you were created to be. You were created to love, support, encourage, befriend, and lead those around you in hopes the same is done to you. You were created to be like Christ – the One you were created by. To display his love in tangible ways, reaching the world for his sake in these small but mighty acts. Accept this purpose, realizing that it is to be used to show others theirs.

You are valued.
Valued beyond measure because you belong to the one who created your soul. Valued by those around you, admired for the various things that you contribute to family, friends, acquaintances, and even strangers. Your time, effort, and attention do not go unnoticed, but are rather recognized and appreciated by each individual you come into contact with. Your mere presence in this world places value upon you that is immeasurable. Never doubt that.

You have beauty.
Not only physical beauty, but beauty within your inner being. It shows through your smile and shines through your eyes. It is revealed through every word your tongue forms, and touches even those unable to accept it. You possess beauty that cannot be explained because it stems from deep within you and expands outwardly. Beauty that reflects the very One who designed it, and that alone can make anything beautiful.

You are loved.
You are surrounded by people placed into your life to do just this. People who know you and others who don’t, that can see the purpose and value and beauty your life contains, and love you for it. Others who see more – the dark places that sometimes you would rather no one witness – and nevertheless love you just as much. You are loved in such an incredible regard that you were created, given life, to live and to serve and to be. You are free because of love. You are forgiven because of love. You exist because of love.

You are chosen.
Your life has divine direction. Those around you have been precisely placed into the position they are meant for within your life, but you have also crossed their path at exactly the deliberate point of intersection. There was a plan behind every event of your life as you know it, and is a plan behind every event to come. No one walks into or out of your life on accident. Moments aren’t by mistake, and memories don’t happen without reason. You are living in the direction intended. You are predestined for the life that only you can fulfill because no other life is lived identically.

You are known.
This can take on many meanings. What I mean is this: You are noticed. Even when you feel as if no one takes time to see you. You are prayed for and cared about. From both near and far people see who you are and who you are becoming. You are not just another shadow one witness – and nevertheless love you just as much. You are known. The One who formed you, he knows your name. He knows it deeply – its meaning, but also its purpose. The purpose it serves is held in the mighty hands that also placed the world into existence.

Your life is precious.
Your life is set apart, and seen, and treasured simply because it is the only life of you that there will ever be on this earth.

Don’t take a single second for granted.
Live into every opportunity and experience that you encounter. Invest into others along the way.

Be present in silent moments, and enjoy the time that passes while surrounded by those who love you. Never lose hope, for it is evident in every breath you take and give. The rhythm of your heart is an anthem of hope, a reason to live looking forward. Anticipate what is to come knowing there is purpose in all of it.

You are meant for greatness.
This note is finding you now to remind you of these things...

If a sign is what you were in search of – let this be just that.
If love is what you needed – let this be your encouragement to look forward.
If strength seems hard to find these days – let this be your battle cry and step onward in courage.
If the past haunts your thoughts – let this be the key that sets them free.
If you are lost and feel unworthy – let this be a prayer of salvation.

A reason to realize how favored, restored, comforted, assured, capable, healed, forgiven and most importantly – created, that you are. Created with purpose. By a God who calls your name, searches your heart, knows your thoughts, hears your prayers, and formed your soul. A soul with purpose.

I hope you find God in the midst of everything you do. This was written with you in mind.

You are here for a reason. Embrace it and go forth, changing the world along the way.

-XO

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever – do not abandon the works of your hands."
POWER OF PRAYER

PRAYER WARRIORS

For many followers of Christ, prayer is one of the most powerful displays of faith, if not the most powerful. One ministry on Olivet’s campus has taken this principle and made it into a lifestyle commitment. The Prayer Warriors ministry has believed that gathering together to lift up prayers to the Lord is essential for Christian faith.

“The ministry has been so impacting to me because its sole purpose is to pray,” said senior member Marie Sheets. “Prayer is important to me because it matters. With prayer, we can lift up our hearts to God and He does something about it.”

The greatest aspect of Prayer Warriors this year was its community.

“We really have prayed genuinely to seek God’s heart on behalf of our whole campus,” Sheets said. “He is so faithful; we see it when we actively respond to Him in prayer, especially in prayer with other people.”

Prayer Warriors found purpose in becoming completely vulnerable with ears and hearts wide open, ready to receive what the Lord wanted to say together as a family.

Prayer Warriors held campus events often this year, hoping to bolster the strength of prayer across campus and to bring issues to the Lord’s attention through members coming together to pray with a unified voice. But, much like prayer itself, often the ministry’s activities took on a life of their own, occurring in their own time.

“Something significant about Prayer Warriors has been that most of the time we’ve had an almost paradoxical nature,” co-leader and sophomore Anamar Serrano said. “The club and its meetings have been planned, yet completely unplanned. This year Andrew Fischer, our other co-leader, and I took pride in preparing efficiently, but it was not uncommon for God to completely change our plans the night of our events. We’ve learned to follow—not our will, but His.”

Events of the group uplifted and united the body of Christ on campus this year, and the spirit of its members has brought just a little bit more light to the Olivet community.
Life Support is a ministry that helps out the Pregnancy Resource Center here in Kankakee, which does not only save the lives of babies, but also shares the gospel and restores families.

"I have witnessed first hand what it means to live in a broken family without Christ, and it has been a journey," said co-Leader and junior Jessie Arzuaga. "Being in that environment opened my eyes to the little attention that these kinds of families receive."

A focus of this ministry was to shed light on the topic of abortion, which is sometimes swept under the rug or ignored by many Christians due to its controversial nature and heaviness. Rather than stirring up arguments, the ministry reached out to love and touch hearts, despite positions and beliefs. They believed that bringing people to Christ is how we make the kingdom grow, while making disciples is how we get stronger. Being involved in this ministry has impacted the volunteers immensely.

"Volunteering at the center has shown me the value of investing in places that provide living alternatives to pregnant women," sophomore Felicia Baer said. "It is easy to say that you are pro-life, but it's important to go out and support the institutions that are living out the pro-life movement."

The passion for being servants of Christ, while showing love and kindness toward the families that seek help from Pregnancy Resource Center, was a driving force for this ministry. A favorite memory that sophomore co-leader Jessica Hemmer shared was the Sanctity of Life week.

"Each day had something to promote the value of each human life," Hemmer said. "We tied red ribbons around trees to represent lives lost to abortion, passed out white wristbands after chapel, made a thank-you poster for the workers at the Pregnancy Resource Center, and hosted a prayer night."

The ministry believed that all life was created by God, and each life is sacred. Life Support served to advocate and love all life.
To be in the midst of raised hands and lifted prayers, forms a culture of community. Party with Jesus created a time where students could walk away from what was troubling their minds on their average Monday evening and enter into the presence of the Lord, and completely surrender to Him. “We wanted it to be Spirit led,” said Party with Jesus leader, Caleb Drake. “We needed prayer and to meet with God personally. We wanted it to be a Jesus culture and hoped that it was something that people wanted to come to.”

Students attended every week, creating a community centered on fellowship with Jesus. The focus was on worship and prayer, in order to refocus minds on the true purpose of life—Jesus.

“I am super passionate about worship,” said freshman Camrie Maxon. “So when I heard that party with Jesus was worship centered and God centered I knew I wanted to be a part of it.”

Party with Jesus was not an average party, but a hub for those who knew what they needed most. Reflecting on the past years of Party with Jesus, students saw a continual growth in the right direction. “Previously it was a really sweet setup,” said Megan Hendrickson, “and this year our vision was to take it and run with it.”

Christ became the life of the party and the reason people continued to come, creating a true Jesus-centered culture.
“We needed prayer and to meet with God personally.”

“We wanted it to be Spirit led.”
CREATING FOR THE CREATOR

HeART

Creativity and talents brought “He” into art on Olivet’s campus by using visual art to expand the Lord’s kingdom. HeArt, a ministry where creative minds came together to serve alongside others, shared the joys of making art past their campus and into the community. Along with affecting the campus with their artistry, in 2016, HeArt’s ministry took time to volunteer in many different areas of the Kankakee community as a whole. Volunteering opportunities always incorporated some kind of creative aspect, whether it was playing paint Twister, finger painting, or putting together sets for Olivet’s theater events. While they enjoyed sharing their passion with the community, HeArt shared the Word of God with those that came to their events. 

“We spent our time building up the art community on campus,” said senior co-leader of HeArt Lindsay Hathaway. Many different campus ministries partnered with HeArt this year for different events that focused on both the ministry itself and the ministry’s target demographic. Members worked to build up others and create together at every event that they held. The sense of community kept many of the artists coming back. “I love the community that was built at HeArt,” Hathaway said. “I think the combination of service with those that have common interests made the ministry a force to be reckoned with.” Members of HeArt said they encouraged each other to use their talents and share their love of Christ with everyone they met. According to the students, the growth they shared was a growth of talent, faith, and commitment to building others up at all times. Membership was offered to students of all majors. Students agreed HeArt was adamant about welcoming anyone with creativity to join and participate in their events. HeArt fostered a great environment to combine the creative minds and servant hearts of the artistic community at Olivet, according to co-leader Joy Katenkamp.
Many students this year found themselves drawn to a ministry, and for who had globally-centered hearts and minds Heart for Missions was a perfect fit.

“I have had a call on my life to live a mission-centered lifestyle since birth, and joining this ministry was a wonderful way to express that,” said senior co-leader Ryan Lutz. “I was challenged in my walk with the Lord by learning what his mercy and grace looks like, and I was challenged to take a broader and more in-depth look into what missions is.”

Heart for Missions focused on the Bible and living as Jesus did. Although they did not send out missionaries, the ministry supported global missionaries by sending prayers, financial backing and created an atmosphere for thoughts and experiences to be shared.

Senior co-leader Ashley Schmitt became a part of the ministry when she was a freshman and started leading as a sophomore.

“God grew and shaped me so much through the ministry and leadership, which I am very thankful for,” Schmitt said. Similar to Lutz, her heart towards missions started at a young age. For her, Heart for Missions was a great stepping stone in her mission-oriented journey.

“God uses many different types of people for His Kingdom,” Schmitt said. “He brings out all kinds of gifts and talents within us if we allow him to use us. I’ve also learned that if we let God lead us, He will, and He will bless us in the process.”

Members of this ministry reflected on the uniqueness of the ministry and how valuable it was to have it as a ministry at Olivet. Sophomore Katie Nicholson was thankful to God for giving her a heart for the world.

“We talked and prayed about real things that our brothers and sisters in Christ have been going through all around the world,” Nicholson said. “This ministry has been unique because it has fostered conversations about issues around the world and a time of prayer for people dealing with those issues.”

The ministry’s mission this year was to promote a passion to support those around the world and to spread the good news through important conversation and globally-minded living. Students agreed Heart for Missions changed the hearts and minds of those who were affected by it and those who participated in it.
LOVE HAS A FACE

MISSIONS IN ACTION

Inspired by the theme “Love Has a Face”, the 2015 MIA teams set out to be the face of love to people of all nations. The faithful believers travelled with a mission: to imitate the most beautiful face of all—the face of God.

“The face of God showed up in the way the children worshipped,” said junior Sarah Matyskela, who travelled to Santa Barbara, Honduras in May. “He showed up in the way our team sought to build each other up. He showed up in the way the people of Honduras stepped out to tell us truth they felt called to share with us. The people of Honduras are bold with their faith. If they have something on their hearts, or something God is calling them to share, they will step out and share it.”

Junior Rachel Blunier also shared how the bold people of Honduras changed her faith and perspective.

“I left Honduras emboldened to share my faith, and humbled with the ways God works through willing servants,” Blunier said. “I left excited about the work God is doing in these children’s lives and throughout the world.”

Several students reflected on the way in which the people they met challenged them more than they expected.

“We thought we were bringing God’s work to Mexico,” said junior Kaleb Miller, who traveled on the MIA trip to Cabo San Lucas. “But God was working there way before we got there.”

The people students met on their trips showed love to them in beautiful and inspiring ways.

“For everything we were doing to show them love, it was like they turned it around and showed us love,” Miller said.

Blunier agreed that the people she met inspired her.

“While they all came from poor and broken families, we were all amazed by their strong testimonies of redemption and hope,” Blunier said.

Matyskela shared how God worked through both their team and the people of Honduras.

“God worked through our team by continuing to challenge the limitations we found ourselves putting on God,” Matyskela said. “We continued to use the phrase ‘No limits’ to remind us that with God, anything is possible. The children we encountered may have had less material-wise than us, but they had a much bigger faith. A faith that was not shaken by circumstance. The people in Honduras believed that if they had God, they truly had everything they needed.”
Jesus Christ impacted lives when He did the dirty work of washing people's feet. Habitat for Humanity impacted lives for Jesus by doing the dirty work with shovels, sledge hammers, and nail guns.

"The first and greatest impact is with the families that are given a hand up," said Habitat in Kankakee President Dale Tolly, who had been working with Habitat for more than ten years. "They receive instruction on home upkeep and budgeting, pride of ownership, and new sense of community with volunteers and other partner families."

Habitat for Humanity is a national and international organization that builds homes for families in need, and every Saturday, Olivet students volunteered to help build these houses. Habitat not only impacted the families receiving the houses, but also the volunteers who helped build the houses.

"My hope for this ministry was to impact the lives of college students" said sophomore Katie Rummery, Habitat for Humanity campus ministry leader. "I wanted to give them opportunities to serve others and see the positive effects of their work. Students went out to change the lives of others, but usually they came back changed as well."

Habitat has made an imprint on the lives of the many volunteers who faithfully continue to build houses in the city of Kankakee.

"Habitat broadened my outlook on this community showing me that there are many needs that have not been met and many opportunities for students to go out and do something about those needs," said senior volunteer Charlton Garr. "Even if it may be small in the grand scheme of things, the small things I decide to do can mean the world to someone."

Everyone who was involved with this ministry, volunteers and partner families, was changed in one way or another, and the volunteers agreed the dirty work was worth the eternal impact.
LIVING on the streets, digging through dumpsters trying to find food and sleeping outside on the cold, hard ground is all too much of a reality for some people. In an attempt to gain better understanding and grow their compassion for the homeless, the Save Our Streets (S.O.S) ministry and other student volunteers tried to simulate this reality for four days during Homeless Week. The students slept outside the warming house and relied on hand outs, dumpster diving and the Ludwig conveyor belt for food. They went to classes like usual but were not allowed in the dorms.

"It made us realize how much we have in our lives that we take for granted," said Trevor Speer. Not only was Homeless Week a humbling experience for the participants, but it was also a fundraiser. The participants passed out envelopes to collect money for a homeless shelter called Gift of God. Also, this year for Homeless Week, the food thrown away in Ludwig Center by students was weighed. This demonstration made students more aware of how much they were wasting. Every week, members of the S.O.S ministry volunteered at Gift of God, and once a month, they took a trip to Chicago. In Chicago, they walked around the streets and passed out food to those in need. Member Vittoria Miulli shared a story of a conversation they had with a homeless man in Chicago who said that God put him there to help serve other homeless people. S.O.S was a great way to help out the community and build relationships. Everyone has their own unique story. One of the leaders this year, Shannon Steffen said, "My favorite thing is probably just the focus on relationships." By passing out food and volunteering at Gift of God, members of S.O.S made many new friends. "It was clear that God is doing a lot at Gift of God," Miulli said.