

# Fulfill the Great Commission

by Ty Williams

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By God's great providence I was blessed during the summer of 2007 to join a group of students from Restoration Academy on the school's first mission team and travel to South America to share God's great love through the sport of basketball. Through a partnership effort with Mountain Brook Community Church, 5 of their members and an RA mission team (consisting of former RA basketball players Chris Robinson, Justin Shepherd, Chase Coker, Jerimie Griffin, DeQuarris Woodruff and myself) spent 10 days in Peru.

The main objective for our mission team was to conduct a basketball camp for the children in the village of Pucallpa. Nearly 100 kids each day came out each day and participated. Many had never played basketball before, so it was a great chance for the members of the RA basketball team to teach them the sport of basketball. In addition to the camps, each afternoon ended with several of the other missionaries and men from the village coming out to play the "Americans." It was a great time of fun and fellowship. The RA students represented our community and country well. It was an amazing experience to witness how God used the sport of basketball as a witnessing tool to break down the communication barrier amongst our group and the village kids.

Since that time, RA has been blessed for the past three summers to have students go on a foreign or local mission trip. They have visited countries such as Ecuador, Ireland, Guatemala, and England. And locally they have been to Missouri, Washington and Arkansas. We are grateful to those who have helped support these trips. It is our prayer that we can continue to provide our students with opportunities to serve God and live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Thanks and God Bless!