

# **DON'T LET SPRING BREAK BECOME A FAITH BREAKDOWN!**

Rolling Stone Magazine states that the conduct of university students who flock to the beaches during spring break comes from "Planet of the Apes" and represents human behavior at its "lowest common denominator" (2/17/2000). Many families are reportedly so turned off by such student activities that they are shying away from places frequented by college crowds, not wanting to expose their children to drunkenness and lewd behavior. Consequently, in Texas, problems of "traffic, Lewdness and general rowdiness" among college students has caused some resort locations to turn their attention and advertisements away from students, attempting instead to attract families (New York Times, 4/9/2000).

In stark contrast, many students from our Christian colleges use their spring break for a more noble purpose. For example, in the spring of 2000, 509 Harding University students spent their "break" time working on 27 Christian service campaigns. Twenty-four of these were in the United States, and three took place in Toluca, Mexico; Ontario, Canada; and Jamaica. Campaigners did physical labor cleaning, painting and repairing church buildings and other installations serving the public; they did evangelistic work with adults and children, and conducted community service projects. Students being recruited for spring 2001 had a goal of 700 to be involved in 33 campaigns. Participants raise the required funds from their families, friends, and local churches.

It is often said that the best lesson is a good example. Having supervised students on campaigns in various parts of the world, I can attest to the good that is done. Frequently, strangers who had been taking note of our great young people have asked me who they were and where they came from. You can imagine with how much pleasure I answered! I have often seen that the Biblical idea that Christ's disciples must be "light," "salt," and "leaven" seems most vividly displayed by our youth.

Our treasuries and our pockets should be open to support these willing servants of our Lord. The world is in dire need of some good examples, especially among our youth. Things can be better. There is still hope. Most people can see the contrast between bacchanalian behavior and activities that are helpful, uplifting, and prompted by love. Here we have indeed a win-win situation. Good works are accomplished in the name of the Lord to His honor and glory, and "spring break" becomes, for our students, a faith "break through," rather than a faith "break down."

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