

# ACU Student Combines Agribusiness and Missions in WorldWide Witness Experience

This past summer I had the opportunity to serve as an intern for an NGO located in the small, rural village of Emasini, Swaziland called Manna Global Ministries. My lifelong friend, Bennett Wendell, and I worked with missionaries Sean and Nicole Boehrig, and experienced life in the African bush first hand. Our sole purpose was to empower the people of Emasini and equip them with the right knowledge coupled with motivation to achieve the lifestyle they desired to live by taking strides on their own accord to exit poverty. The World Wide Witness program prepared me for cultural and missional situations to which I had not been exposed, and how to approach those situations with an open mind. As well as preparing me spiritually, the program helped me take the steps necessary for fundraising and placed me in a location where I could best serve according to my desired career field and interests.



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Sean and Nicole Boehrig, their daughter, Cedar, and their dog, Thor, welcomed Bennett and me with open arms and eagerness. For a few short months, they shared with us the life they live every day. We learned about life in Emasini, a small rural village located down a dirt road about 30 minutes from one of the major cities in Swaziland. We helped create and promote community events advertising the importance of clean water while working on local water acquisition projects. We maintained the garden on the Boehrig's property and used the experience to teach practical permaculture skills in the community, while building relationships with the locals. We did not try to bring people to the gospel by speaking at church or talking on the street, but rather by showing them what it means to live the gospel. Many of the people in Emasini are Christians but still cling to cultural practices and beliefs that prevent them from fully accepting the grace given to us through the gospel of Jesus Christ.



The department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences equipped me with the knowledge and skills of hands-on agriculture that gave me the confidence to work with and teach others in Swaziland. I had tremendous support from the faculty and my peers before the summer and as well as on my re-entry into the United States. Since then, I have been able to share my experience at various chapels and was the keynote speaker at the Ag Missions Luncheon where I encouraged other students to step out of their comfort zone and fulfill a calling that tells us to serve in our mission fields, whether that is overseas or right here in our own backyard. Jesus calls us to go and make disciples and you do not have to be a traditional 'missionary' to do that. World Wide Witness, the A&E Department, and the Boehrig's taught me that vocational ministry, while it may not be the most glamorous, can be the most effective type of ministry if your work and how you can share that with others in Jesus' name is your true passion.



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