

S P R I N G 2 0 1 6

Tour, Tour, Tour!

Charlotte, Atlanta, Birmingham, India, OH MY!



Touring across the Southeast!

We went on our first U.S tour in January, touring the southeast. We went to Charlotte, NC, surrounding areas of Atlanta, GA, and Birmingham, AL. We had outreaches at churches, boys and girls clubs, retirement homes, and schools. We even got to take a ballet class with Briarwood Ballet in Birmingham before teaching them a workshop. Many hearts and lives were touched, including those of our own team!

Upcoming Events!

Spring Break!

[Mar. 11-20]

Get back from India, have a week of classes, then Spring Break! Whew!

Easter!

[Mar. 25-27]

We've a BIG Easter performance in Arkansas, complete with 3 new pieces!

Project Dance!

[April 21-25]

We are headed to Project Dance in NYC, to perform in Times Square!

Random facts about tour:

Here are some fun facts about the U.S Tour!

- ❖ This was our first trip as a full team since September.
- ❖ We drove 19 hours the first day and about 4 ish hours the next day, arriving in Charlotte, NC.
- ❖ We took two vans, allowing plenty of stretch and napping room.
- ❖ We didn't know where we were staying in Atlanta until we got there. Talk about steps of faith.
- ❖ We took Jonah, our directors' son along for the ride- he became our well loved personal assistant and mascot!
- ❖ We found a mini Arc of the Covenant our first night in Charlotte, at one of our host homes. Photo proof is below.



{Tour Highlights}

Here are some photos to accompany a little bit about tour!

Charlotte, NC.

For the first three days of tour, Arrows lead a worship/dance conference in Charlotte, NC. The weekend was full of forums with our directors, and classes taught by our teachers. On day two, we had a full concert, our first of the tour.

God blessed us with a day off before we left for Atlanta (which was MUCH needed), and we got to have dinner at a host home and just bond as a team, whether it was over football on the TV or singing by the outdoor fireplace. We even got to see some snow!



Atlanta, GA.

Atlanta was a huge step of faith for us the whole time. We were blessed with the opportunity to rent a house, holding all the girls and our directors. The boys stayed at a host home. Our house was big enough for all of us, allowing us to even have a fun company pool tournament/game night. We performed at mostly retirement homes while there; to be able to love on and minister to those who lived there was amazing for all of us. Our hearts were touched as much as theirs were.

Birmingham, AL.

It was a blast being back in my own hometown. We were able to go to several local schools, colleges, and even got to do a workshop with Briarwood Ballet. One of my favorite nights on tour was our concert in Birmingham at my church.





“Light Shine Bright, everywhere we go. Music for the people, making music for the people.”

We have this one piece, Light Shine Bright, and it began as a fun creative day in class and grew into a collaboratively choreographed piece creative by all the company members. Little did we know when we created it, that it would become our staple piece in India. There was not one outreach we didn't perform it at.

One of the best nights for me on the trip actually started with that piece. It was our second show of our last day in Bangalore, and Light was our first piece. Halfway through the number, the power of the entire building shut off, music and everything. By this point, we had learned to be suuuuper flexible in all situations,

so of course we kept dancing. We even sang the song ourselves (or tried to, anyways). The power came back on right at the end, and it was like we didn't miss a beat.

The presence of God fell that night, and continued, even after the show. We were able to talk with and pray over the college students that came, which was awesome. After all of that, right before dinner, the team started praying and crying out to God in the hallway. We were literally on our faces before God, and it was one of the most-raw moments on the trip for me. We are not worthy to do His work, yet He delights in us and calls us to go.

Travel Fun Facts:



- ❖ With layovers, travel time TO India was about 31 hours. Travel time coming home was about 35, which included a 4 hour layover in Frankfurt, Germany. SO COOL.
- ❖ We spent too many hours a day in a bus. Seriously. I think one day in Lonaval, more time was spent in the bus than anywhere else. At least 7 hours.
- ❖ Flew from Mumbai to Bangalore halfway through the trip for the second leg of the trip, the on to Chennai for the last part.

New Experiences. New People.

Indian Traffic.

NOT something we have here in the states. People are not necessarily in a hurry, but they make use of every space possible. And I mean EVERY space. The two lane roads are more like four lane roads. You're lucky if you can cross the road without being hit. This is an adventure we got to tackle multiple times a day in Chennai.



Dancing in the Dirt.

There's not a more humbling feeling that taking all you have and laying it down... in the dirt. As dancers, we use our art to say what words sometimes fail to. We use it to show our hearts, and Arrows uses it to show the heart of the Father. There's no other feeling than realizing that it doesn't matter if you get dirt on you; if that's where the people are, that's where you go.

Flexibility and Spur of the Moment.

Basically the theme of the trip. One night we thought we had the night off, so we went to dinner in nice (normal) clothes. Found out we actually had an outreach, so we rushed back to the hotel (a 15 minute walk) to change and grab our things, rushed back, and got put into rickshaws and driven back. That was terrifying and exciting. We performed on a small rickety stage, but it was one of the best experiences of the trip. (The green thing in the photo to the right is the small stage we performed on. Literally like 5x7...if



that.)



Little Smiles.

The kids are definitely a favorite part of the trip, for all of us. Five minutes after they meet you, they are your best friend. Their smiles and their excitement are contagious. All they want to do is play and dance with you. The joy that they have, even when they have nothing, is beautiful. They just want to love and be loved.



This is the dining hall on the YWAM base in Lonavala, the first place we stayed.



The colors in India are vibrant!



This is Shelby, our American friend on the YWAM base that we hung out with!



This is somewhere on the way to the Red Light District in Mumbai; we got stuck in a lot of traffic, which provided plenty of time to enjoy the scenery!



It's uncommon to see a woman balancing something twice her size on her head, sometimes without her hands!



This is Isaiah, Isabelle, and Lydia, Jose and Sarah's children (our hosts). We loved them!



Moorthi honored us with leis, and surprised Cass with a birthday celebration!



The view in our dining hall in Bangalore!



This is Daisy and the orphans that lived with Moorthi and Mary, our hosts in Chennai.



Who would've thought.

This whole year has been a year of firsts for me. I left home, moved across the country to state I'd never been to, and started literally from scratch. No job, no friends, no church, and an apartment I'd never even seen. Because I took a step of faith, I can now say I've been on tour across the U.S. and traveled to India to perform and minister. Not only that, I am on my way to perform in TIMES SQUARE/NEW YORK CITY IN APRIL. That's literally the dream come true. Crazy how God can just take a silly dream that seems unrealistic and make it utterly real. Somehow God finds me worthy and called me to live a dream even better than I could have ever imagined.

A few things to be praying about:

- ❖ New York Project Dance: Performing in Times Square is HUGE. So many people could be reached, just by walking down the street.
- ❖ Finances: This one is huge. Money has been harder since our trip to India got moved to February. I just got a new job (with an Indian family! Who knew!), but don't start until the last week of March/first of April.
- ❖ Summer missions/future plans: Please be praying with me about my future. The company is going to Costa Rica/Colombia in June and Japan in July, and I'm in progress of trying to decide which to go on. Also, trying to decide where to go from here once my lease is up. I have a potential roommate if I stay another year, but need clarity from God about where to go.



Thank you all so much for your prayers and support! It means so much, truly. I pray that God blesses you for being obedient and for blessing me.

Lyanna Saito

If you would like to write me, I love receiving mail!

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