



TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY

POST HURRICANE HELP

Soon after Hurricane Matthew ravaged Haiti, John Powell, head of F3 in Columbia, and HUG CEO Bruce Williams led a group from F3 – Fitness, Fellowship, Faith – to assist where needed after the up to 185-mile-an-hour winds and pounding rain stripped fruit trees and tore roofs from homes. Areas flooded and mudslides destroyed areas. Work was “hard” admitted one F3 volunteer, but witnessing the resiliency of the Haitian people put the difficulty of travel to the areas and the overwhelming nature of the projects in perspective. “Everybody was happy, laughing and helping. No lazy people in Haiti as far as I could see,” said Phillip Reynolds, Sr. Pastor at First Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C.

He shares one story: “One little tin shack wasn’t worth repairing so we told the old lady who lived there by herself (sleeping on the ground – she had no furniture at all) that we would build her a new living structure, about twice the size of her old one. I don’t think she believed us at first, but she would find out the next day that we weren’t kidding.”

By the next day, the team had not only built her a “new” house, but a bed frame and table out of extra materials as well.

“Haiti is hard. But we are F3. We don’t do easy. We do hard things,” said Phillip.



The word preached in the Cha Cha Mountain church that Sunday was not that Bruce and the F3 group needed to be praised, but that Jesus needed to be praised.

Bruce says that although much was accomplished, including working alongside Haitians in the assembly of colorful playground equipment for children in the Valley of Hope, Hurricane Matthew ravished an already struggling country. HUG’s plans in the near future are to build a school on Cha Cha Mountain in January-February.

HAITIUNDERGOD.ORG

MAKING CONNECTIONS

A summer short-term mission trip led by HUG board member Deena Bouknight involved a group of high schoolers from First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. Many were first timers to Haiti and on a mission trip. However, the team immediately connected with the 18 HUG-a-Child girls who live in a home in a suburb of Port-au-Prince. They were taken on a rare trip to the beach, and assisted in the construction of a large garden box and interior painting. Many of the girls practiced their English speaking and writing skills. (Knowing English well provides an added employable skill when they become adults.)

The girls also learned the art/skill of mosaics. Columbia teacher and artist Angel Allen accompanied the team to oversee the completion of a mosaic project at the entrance My Father's Guesthouse, which is managed by HUG and is in walking distance of the girls' home. For several days the girls, along with the youth team and some adult team members, learned the process from start to finish. All involved also created their own mosaic cross under the guidance of Angel. Each girl's cross was a unique, signed piece of art; afterward



crosses were hung in the main living room of the HUG-a-Child home. Plus, she took supplies to the Valley of Hope and Cha Cha Mountain so that women at both those churches could have a mosaic cross to call their own.

Said 17-year-old Elizabeth (Lizzie) Lonon: "My experience in Haiti was special and eye opening. I fell in love with the country and was amazed and encouraged by the kindness and love shown. I was able to connect with many of the girls on a personal level, even becoming pen pals with one. I was surprised at how even though we live worlds apart, we have so many things in common."

PREPARATIONS MADE FOR UPCOMING ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

After HUG board member Barbara Spence successfully held a Women's Conference in Haiti for three years, there was an "outcry by the women to teach their husbands," she explained. Thus, the first Family Conference was held this past November. Three hundred attended. Pastor Antoine Maxeau gave the opening testimony encouraging those present that "God can and will do great things through anyone who will say 'yes' to Him!"

Couples learned how to love one another, the importance of the church, and the need for parents to be "church" at home for their children. A repeat performance is in the planning stages for 2017.



The fourth annual Women's Conference will take place April 4-11 and is open for those interested in participating. Contact Barbara Spence at bsspenca@outlook.com.

SERVE — SUPPORT — SHARE

HUG always welcomes those who want to physically visit Haiti to serve and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Haitian people, to be blessed by their joyous spirit, and to help work alongside them for the betterment of their daily lives. Those who cannot go can support HUG in continuous efforts. One hundred percent of donations go directly to sustain the 18 girls at HUG-a-Child, to build, to feed, and to supply. Please consider helping HUG by visiting www.haitiundergod.org.



BE THOU MY VISION

More than 600 people received the gift of clear sight in November through a mission effort led by HUG board member Barbara Spence. The vision clinic provided prescription glasses, eye drops, and sunglasses.

“But the biggest thrill was to see 15 people accept the free gift of eternal life through belief in Jesus Christ,” said Barbara.

HELP US BY DONATING TODAY



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My Father's Guesthouse is a secure sanctuary in Port-au-Prince managed by a godly caretaker and servant for Christ: Madame Phyll.

For more information about the HUG managed, affordable accommodations, visit www.myfathersguesthouse.org.



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