



May 11, 2011

Dear First Baptist Family,

You have been so faithful to support and pray for Project Haiti. I want to give you an update on where we are.

Much Work

Thus far, an enormous amount of work and planning have been done. Hours and hours and hours of work have been spent on this project. Countless meetings have taken place. Endless contacts with people all over the world have been made. Experts in many fields have been consulted: sanitation (head of civil engineering dept. at Miss. State University and part of a group called Engineers Without Borders); construction (various architects including Heyward Bell, a member of our church); medical (Dr. Amos Belknap, Dr. David Sullivan, Dr. Mike Nichols); water wells (Haiti Outreach, Living Water International, Crossgates Baptist Church members who are currently drilling wells in Haiti, and others); and agriculture (renowned agriculture missionary Harold Watson and his son, the State Veterinarian for the state of Miss., went to Haiti and walked our land).

In addition, we have met with countless people who have experience working in Haiti, including a Miss. couple that is working with the Florida Baptist Convention. Several weeks ago we met with a young man named Marsellin who is a Haitian who works in Jackson in the office of Heyward Bell. He gave us additional insight into the thinking and mind set of the Haitian people.

Funds Given

I am thrilled to report that we have now received over \$530,000 for Project Haiti. This amount was given by 750 donors. Over \$110,000 of the \$530,000 was given by people outside of First Baptist Jackson.

Some of the most respected men in our church - Buddy Huff, Lee Cope, Doug Rule, and David Gibbs - are serving on the Project Haiti Oversight Committee. This committee is responsible for all expenditures related to Project Haiti and will be giving monthly updates.

Enlarging the Tent

As we have progressed, God has enlarged our tent to include churches from around the country. On the construction trip I am leading on May 21, members from 5 churches will be going: FBC Rayville, LA (pastor and deacon), FBC Atlanta, GA, Clarke-Venable Baptist in Decatur, MS, FBC Kosciusko, MS, and our church.

Great Bridge B.C. in Chesapeake, VA is holding an ingathering service for Project Haiti on May 15 to receive funds. They are sending a team in August to build houses. Park Place Baptist Church in Brandon, MS is sending a team in September. FBC Tuscaloosa is seeking to be involved. And, we are meeting with members of FBC Pensacola and Hillcrest Baptist in Pensacola on May 17 to see how they can be involved.

Recently

The past several weeks have been especially important. Tim Dortch, the pastor/missionary with whom we are working, has been on the ground in Haiti. His connections are invaluable: mayor, village leadership, translators, local pastors, U.N. Peru, U.N. Brazil, U.N. Paraguay, and local lawyer/notary, just to name a few. Without his work and connections, we would not be anywhere near where we are today.

Also, Mark Rich, a landscape architect from our church just returned from Haiti for the third time. He and two American surveyors staked out the buildings for the clinic.

Others who are giving leadership to Project Haiti include Buddy Huff, Dr. Lee Cope, Billy Van Devender, Barbara Gladney, Dr. Mike Nichols, Dr. Bill Boteler, Scott Tuminello, Dr. Amos Belknap, Bobby Barefield, Doug Rule, and David Gibbs.

Coming Up

This week, the organization that is giving leadership to the construction aspect of Project Haiti has begun pouring the footings for the medical/dental clinic. Then, on May 21 I will be leading the first construction team to Haiti. We will begin the construction of the clinic. We return on May 28. On that same day the second construction team, led by Executive Pastor Bob Gladney, will arrive in Haiti for the second week of construction.

Main Goal

As you can see, there has been much talk over the last few months about houses, the clinic, land surveys, and dirt work. While all of these are important, they are not the main thing. As one preacher said, "we don't want to simply create a better place for people to go to hell from." The main thing is sharing the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That Good News is that God so loved Haiti that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

How have we shared this Good News and how will we do so in the future? Thus far, we have shared the gospel on a dental mission trip that we conducted in February. Every patient we saw received a gospel tract in Creole Haitian. Also, I was able to share the gospel with many of the patients by using the Bridge Drawing. In the future, we plan to have gospel tracts available for every person who comes to the permanent medical/dental clinic. Of course, ongoing gospel work will take place through the church that will be built just below the clinic. Our goal is to have a local pastor who serves through the new church and who is constantly sharing the Good News and making disciples.

All About Faith

As you can tell, many good things are happening with Project Haiti. However, we want you to know that this project is not being done primarily by hard work and planning. Instead, it's being done primarily by faith - believing and trusting God. One step at a time. One decision at a time. The world, of course, thinks this is crazy. Nonetheless, we know that God wants us to live and work and act in faith. The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

In Hebrews 11 the Bible describes men and women who did great things for God. One key ingredient that every person in that list possessed was faith. By faith Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and others did great and mighty things for the Lord. It wasn't by their resources or their planning or their clever ideas. It was by faith. Hebrews 11:32-35 says:

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

My prayer is that we would all be in that roll call. I hope that one day we can look back and say that it was in response to the measure of faith that we demonstrated that God built this community. God brought His light into the darkness. God saved souls. And it all happened . . . by faith.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Project Haiti,

Stan Buckley
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church Jackson

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