

September 10, 2010

Help needed for our neighbors

We have been able to provide food and supplies for several "tent cities". The tents will be there for a very long time and the needs will continue. Please help us provide supplies such as peanut butter, canned tuna, hygiene items (travel size), hand can openers and wash cloths.

Help us give hope to people who have lost everything. We will ship our next container in late October, so, there is enough time to be a part of this important effort!



One of several tent cities helped through your generosity

Patti's School construction

update



View of Patti's School second floor going up

The first floor of Patti's School is complete. The second floor is going up and will soon be ready for the roof. The second floor will have an apartment for a long term missionary, a bunk room for work teams and much needed storage space. A light weight metal truss roof will be much more earthquake resistant than a traditional concrete slab.

Funds are still needed to help with roof construction. The total cost of the roof will be \$29,000. The extra expense is worth it, considering the extra earthquake resistance. The dark concrete slab part way up the second floor also adds strength, plus the metal stairs provide an additional reduction in weight over concrete. Approximately \$5,000 will be needed to install a ceiling, lights and fans.

Patti's School opportunity

Become a sponsor of one of the six classes at Patti's School. For \$55 per month (10 months) you can help pay for a teacher's salary and assist with supplies for a classroom. You will receive a photo of the teacher and class, samples of children's work, communications with the students and exchange letters and photos.

There are six choices for sponsorship. Please indicate your first, second or third choices on your check.

1. K1 – age 3
2. K2 – age 4
3. K3 – age 5
4. Primary grades 1,2
5. Primary grades 3,4
6. Primary grades 5,6

It is especially difficult after the earthquake. Help make a difference in a classroom in Haiti.

Clinic construction is next!

After a delay in construction, work on the clinic will soon resume. Last year, when it was clear that the builder was not qualified to continue, he was taken off the job. Although the foundation was not located per plan, inspection by several construction experts determined that it can be salvaged. A team is traveling to Haiti to take careful measurements so the building plan can be adapted.

The original clinic plans called for three stories plus a slanted roof for solar panels. Considering earthquake safety, the plans are being revised for two stories, with the second floor roof being constructed with metal trusses.

Although an exact figure won't be known until plans are redrawn, it is expected that the first floor will cost an additional \$55,000.

Summer was a busy time for work teams

In the several months after the earthquake, the major effort was repair and recovery in order to get the children back into the house before the rainy season, and to care for the most pressing needs. The summer was spent moving forward from where we had left off in January and preparing to meet long term needs that were amplified by the disaster.

June 10 - Harvester Christian Church weekend

The new church, Hope Christian Church of Tabarre, began as an outreach to 12 elderly ladies this past October. It has grown to an attendance of over 120, with an additional 50 children attending a separate children's church. The Harvester group spent a long weekend hosting a seminar with a focus on Baptism. A large inflatable pool was set up in the front yard of House of Hope. 23 people were baptized.

June 17- Stillwater, PA Christian Church

The big job for the Stillwater group was to clean and organize in preparation for the container release. A much needed sink was installed in the work team kitchen/tool room. All was not work. The group provided activities for the children. A sobering part of the trip was a visit to one of the tent cities in the neighborhood. Although the news media had forgotten, they witnessed first hand that the needs were still great..

June 26 - Second Stillwater team

Along with the always present jobs of cleaning, organizing and repairing, the team spent time with activities they had prepared for our "grannies". They also held a "thank you" event for the staff, and of course, spent a lot of time with the children. In addition to visiting a tent city, they were able to witness the devastation still present in downtown Port-au-Prince.

July 1 - Shara Puckett arrives Shara, with the help of her mom Sally, set up her room and prepared to make a huge impact on our girls. (See a report from Shara in this newsletter.)

Fixing the well



Graduation

July 27 - Genesis Church and other House of Hope friends

This trip was one of challenges! It started off with the flight out of St. Louis cancelled and postponed until the next day. In the process, American Airlines lost Bill's bags with all of his clothing and part of the group food. When the group finally arrived in Haiti they were met with the challenge of replacing a broken deep well pump. If that wasn't enough, the group unloaded our 40 foot container which held over 1300 boxes. Madison, Mary Kay and Heidi organized the hygiene/medical depot opening sorting and organizing many boxes.. Bill was our "Energizer Bunny" fixing, repairing and doing whatever was needed.

August 4 - Second Harvester team

The major project for the week was a clothing give-away to people from the church. The team tackled the remaining boxes from the container by first organizing clothing for the give-away. On Friday Barb Nelson taught a seminar for approximately 100 women. Lunch was served then Keith Nelson taught a seminar on communion. Saturday was graduation for 10 children moving to primary 1 grade. Sunday Keith Nelson preached. Sunday afternoon was the first clothing give-away. All went smoothly thanks to much preparation by the team, Shara and the staff. In addition, the team made multiple trips to Double Harvest to load up approximately 600 boxes of food to be distributed to six missions. This group did whatever was asked of them and never complained about the heat and nightly rain. Tuesday was a second day of scheduled clothing give-away which also went well. **Please help us! We need women's shirts and dresses, especially men's shoes and men's pants 30-34 inch waist.** The next container will ship at the end of October.

The container arrives



"I can't believe it's empty!"



"Oh! My! That looks heavy!"

Clothing distribution

Report from Shara

It is hard to believe that I can officially tuck 2 months under my belt in Haiti. In some ways it has flown by; in others it feels like I have always been here, and I mean that in the best way possible. I have spent the majority of my time watching, listening, observing, and learning. My role here has become clearer, language learning is slow but going, and my relationships with the girls continues to blossom.

One of the most significant experiences I've had with the girls is involving them in community service. Most tent cities have leaders established who fairly distribute aid to its residents. There is a tent city not far from our compound that we were unable to help earlier this month due to a lack of organization within the community. Angelo encouraged them to get organized, and we would be back to help. I suggested that rather than waiting for when or if they would get organized, we create boxes for each tent containing rice, hygiene kits, etc. The girls were able to be involved in preparing the boxes and in distributing them. We spent the time memorizing Genesis 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation and **I will bless you**; I will make your name great, and **you will be a blessing**." We were able to discuss how God has blessed our home with so much – a sturdy roof over our heads, beds to sleep in, clothes to wear, plenty of food to eat, and water to drink – and now because of these blessings God expects us to be blessing to others. Visiting the tent city was a real eye-opener for the girls, and I believe it made a lasting impact on many of them.

I am praying that God would continue to give us opportunities to reach out to our community, and these experiences would instill a servant's heart in these girls. They are the future of Haiti, and because of the way *you* have blessed AHBZ they can be a blessing to others. Keep being a blessing and keep praying!

Shara has truly been a blessing to House of Hope. In her short time in Haiti, she has made a big difference. There have been countless surprises which she has not only taken in stride, but has assumed a leadership role. An example is one day Bien Sociale came to the house asking us to provide emergency care for an 8 month old baby. Moya had been abandoned at a hospital by her mother. She weighed only 16 pounds, did not know how to eat solid foods and could not lift her head or roll over. Her mouth full of teeth indicated that she must have been closer to a year old. Shara quickly took charge and helped Moya learn how to eat and gain strength. Moya still has a long way to go to catch up. Shara has been working with doctors to evaluate Moya and hopefully obtain a medical visa so she can receive the special care and treatment that she desperately needs.

Mission trips are important, but so is the work that is done here.

A special thank you to some of our special friends who raised support or donations over the summer.

Bethany Austin – Spoke at summer camps about House of Hope

Jake Austin – "Blues for Haiti" benefit concert May 16.

Marilyn Freiro – Held a garage sale.

Justin and Madeline Hawkins - Organized a 5k run "Hope for Haiti".

Julie Pattoff - Spearheaded the "Raise the Roof" (for the clinic) day of events at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Tommy Barry - Instead of birthday gifts, this 10 year old asked for donations to honor the memory of Carol and collected \$305.

Sandra Alexander - popped popcorn and raised \$1000 for House of Hope.

Camille Hibbler - collected 92 jars of peanut butter.

Pat Irmscher – Celebrated a "special" birthday and asked for donations for Haiti instead of gifts for herself.

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Tentative work-team schedule 2010-2011

September 9-16 – Put up moveable walls. Organize children's clothing. Dedicate school building.

October 14 – 21 (Tentative dates) – Conduct wedding ceremonies for several couples. Harvester Christian Church will provide gowns and suits and help with expenses. This is a follow on to a wedding seminar held earlier this year.

November 30 or December 2 to December 7 - Christmas Group: Decorate the house and celebrate with the children. If the October container is released, unload and organize the contents.

January 2011 – Paul and Michelle arrive as missionaries

February 8-15 (dates tentative) - "Have a Heart" Pastor Seminar/Training and a Youth "Camp"

April 28 – May 3 – "Spring Fling" – Clean up and clean out House of Hope. Paint/sweep/organize. Inventory school supplies and make a list for the next container. Clinic will need tiling/cleaning/painting/dedicating. Church seminar.

June-August - Work teams will continue to clean, paint and repair school, house, clinic and church pavilion. A busy, busy summer.

May 31 – June 7 – Kindergarten graduation. Medical team.

June 9-16 - Clean up school/pack/organize/repair. Unload container

July 5-12 – VBS/ work in tent cities. Medical team. Organize container contents. School summer program, HOH and neighborhood.

July 14-21 – VBS/work in tent cities. School summer program, HOH and neighborhood.

August 9-16 – VBS/work in tent cities. Set up clinic schedule. School summer program, HOH and neighborhood. Church retreat to the beach.

September 8-15 – Assist in after-school program. Guest instructors in vocational school. Teacher seminar. Church leader seminar. Fall "kick-off" for church.

October 11-18 – Medical clinic emphasis. Well-care check-ups at school, neighborhood. Hygiene clinics for neighborhood.

November 29 – December 6 – Christmas group. Decorate HOH, school, church pavilion, clinic. Celebrate.

Teaching units on Haiti are available to classrooms. Contact Carole if you would like to learn more.

These units have photos of Haiti and House of Hope, maps, Haiti information and includes several activities. There is an authentic folk tales to share with the class.

Angelo's house is ready for a roof

The earthquake reduced Angelo's house to rubble. Miraculously, his family escaped with minor injuries. His daughter Angie and son Emanuel were in the living room when the earthquake hit. When the shaking started, Angie grabbed her older brother's arm and led him out as the heavy concrete roof collapsed behind them. Since the earthquake, Angelo and his family have been living in a makeshift tent.

The house is now ready for a roof, windows and interior work. Please consider how you can help. Following is a list of projects:

- \$6,278 Completion of the roof slab
- \$4,839 Stucco
- \$6,417 Doors and windows
- \$1,057 Bathrooms

We plan to send furniture on the October container. Whatever was salvaged from the collapsed house is no longer serviceable.



Angelo in front of his makeshift tent.



The new house, ready for a roof. As soon as the roof is up, his family will move out of the tent and into the house while construction is completed.

Saturday November 15 is the annual fund raising dinner. See the enclosed invitation.

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