

I hope you are enjoying this color newsletter. There was so much that the black & white pictures could not show. You are still missing out on the sounds and the smell needed to make the picture complete. You can take my word for it that sheep and goats can drown out roosters crowing at 4:30am and I guess you aren't missing that much by not experiencing some of the odors of Haiti either. Here are a couple pictures that I couldn't show you in black & white and you will really never get the complete picture until you go with me to see it for yourself.



Many times I have said that there are almost no trees left in Haiti. In the picture, left, you can see from the mountain to the ocean and you would have to look very carefully to see any trees in the fifty miles of visible terrain. Since wood is still the main fuel for heating and cooking by the almost 8-million inhabitants, combined with the erosion that has stripped most of the soil off the volcanic mountains, there is little hope for most of the island to recover. There is some hope for the Seguin area because we are beginning to develop a dream or vision for a future. People are willing to work as a team to improve the community for everyone.

I could sure use some Johnny Appleseeds. Anybody want to go to a mountain top on a beautiful Caribbean Island and plant trees for a week?

It's vegetable cleaning day. It's also laundry day. It could easily be the day for the pig to come wallow, the cow to drink and horses or people to bathe. All this takes place at this mountain top pond. Its hard to believe how white their whites are, not so hard to believe why you can get really sick from eating a beautiful raw carrot. The carrots are bound for the market, the clothes will be spread on the grassy slopes to dry in the sun.



Farsight is dedicated to seeing a need and responding. Our goal is to give a "Hand Up" rather than just a "Hand Out"

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Its the most important day of their lives!

21 Women and 5 men, having completed a class on Christianity, accompanied by most of the congregation, made the half-day trip to this river to be baptized. For some in the group, this day will become the first official record of their existence. Their baptismal certificate will be their first and only "birth certificate", which is accepted by the government as proof of identity.



A lot of teaching precedes a person's acceptance of Christ, leading up to his or her repentance, confession of faith, and baptism for the forgiveness of sin and gift of the Holy Spirit. It is very important to both teacher and disciple that there is a good understanding and foundation for their faith. They understand that of all the choices they make or actions they take, **THIS ONE is the ONLY ONE that his as eternal impact on their lives.** It truly is the most important day of their lives. Each person is wearing a hand-sewn garment made just for this occasion. This day will be filled with singing, laughter, great fellowship with their Christian family and probably a shared picnic since this is an all day event.

Events like this let me know that what I am doing is worth it. I stand in awe of my Heavenly Father when I consider all that He has done in my presence. More and more I see myself as God's observer and reporter of all that is happening. We build a physical bridge between the village and the church and the people learn of Jesus, the Bridge between Earth and Heaven. We bring them medicine that temporarily relieves some of their ailments, they learn that God is the Great Physician that offers a cure for sin and death. We build cisterns to provide water and they learn that Jesus is the Living Water, the only One who can quench the thirst within. A thirst that can only be satisfied by being re-united with God, the bond lost by Adam and Eve and redeemed on the cross by God's only Son.

OK, so I've gone to preaching. Its a little frustrating not knowing enough Creole to preach in Seguin, so I have to squeeze in a little bit here and there or I will just explode!



School is off to a great start! There are 62 children enrolled for the second year. We have added two teachers. We are doing everything possible to make this a quality learning experience in spite of the challenges that must be overcome. I have been overwhelmed by the response of volunteers to sponsor the children. I currently have only three children without sponsors. So if you have been thinking you would like to make a difference in a child's life, please call me right now at 1-800-450-1434 and become an angel in a child's life.

All the children have uniforms now. As you can see, the color was carefully chosen for the area. It is almost as if they are all wearing camouflage uniforms. All the children are so proud to be a part of this "high-tech" school.



Great progress has been made on the hospital/clinic building. We needed one day to finish the blocks but the rain came, so we only laid blocks for a half day. We left a few blocks for Thomas to finish when he is not teaching. The January team will begin the roofing process unless God has something else planned for us to do.

IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services, Kempton, Indiana) has once again responded to our appeal for financial assistance in this project. Here is how it works. If I can raise \$11,000 in project funds by Christmas, they will match it with \$6,000.

Time is running out and I have only raised half the funds needed in order to get the matching funds. **If you were wanting to give a Christmas gift that will keep on giving, here is your chance.** Your gift of \$100US grows to \$160US and then it multiplies into \$528 Haitian. That would pay for two windows. Then again, a \$1,000US would buy all the windows in the building.

The trip in October showed us the urgency and need for the hospital. We had the personnel and the medicine for a clinic. Due to rain delays we were unable to announce in church that we were there to hold a clinic and to pass the word to those who needed medical treatment. Over 200 patients came anyway. We asked them, "Kote la Kay?" - "where is your home?" They would point in a direction and respond, "one hour, that way" or "an hour beyond Seguin." They were coming from all over the mountain, several hour's walk in every direction. We saw the usual colds and fevers in many but then there were 6+ cases with all the symptoms of Typhoid fever and several had the symptoms of Malaria. Praise God we had medicine to treat these diseases. Three cases squeezed my heart up into my throat. 1) A boy about 10. His father brought him on a horse because he had a compound fracture of the right foot. It had happened a few days earlier. We gave the dad \$100 and sent him to the hospital immediately so he would not lose his foot or his life. 2) A girl about 10-12. Her dad had carried her to us. She had an open wound the size and depth of two golf balls at the base of her tailbone and infection throughout her back side. (trust me, you can not imagine this sight) The father said the hospital had put her outside when they ran out of money. We treated her infection, gave him \$100 and sent them to another hospital. 3) A girl about 15. Infected wounds on the knee and leg from thigh to ankle. Her dad brought her to us. We treated her, gave her antibiotics, and running short on funds, gave her dad \$50 to go to the hospital. We didn't hear back concerning the boy and pray he is on the road to recovery. We learned later that girl #2 was rejected from the hospital for insufficient funds and/or they thought her condition was not treatable. Her father had continued on, carrying her to yet another clinic like ours in hopes of finding treatment that might save her life. Girl #3 came back to us 1-1/2 days later. She too had been rejected by the hospital for insufficient funds. When we sent her, she had a pulse in her leg; when she returned, we could not find a pulse. We gave her the most aggressive treatment and antibiotic medicines we had and then prayed, knowing in our hearts that answered prayer was her only hope. Her name, so that you too can pray for her, is Lorencia Orismé.

I have to remind myself that God is in control and He holds all our lives in His hands. I have to remind myself that sin is the greater destroyer of life. **Then I remind myself to guard against ever becoming so cold that I could look at a child and say, "Your life is not worth the cost of the treatment."** I hope you realize than any gift you give will contribute to saving the lives and souls of many Maxos (deceased 1997) and Lorencias (?).

Make your gift payable to Farsight Christian Mission. All gifts are tax deductible. Farsight Christian Mission sends receipts for all contributions annually. If you do not receive your statement of contributions in January please contact me at Farsight Christian Mission, 741 Willow Grove Terrace, Davie, Florida, 33325-6392 or call 1-800-450-1434.



The bridge is still serving the community and acting as a constant reminder to everyone on the mountain that there is a God who answers prayer.

It is my hope that next year the bridge can be replaced with a wider and stronger unit. There are several other ravines that could use a twenty-five foot bridge and this one could easily be made into two bridges of that length.

Forefront Christian Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia sent their second team: (Left to Right in back row) Daniel Reese, Michael Reppert, Ginger Tuttle, Phyllis Rhoades, Mark Miller, Kevin Feighery. (Kneeling) Kim Smith from Faith Christian Church in Michigan and K.T. Bronson. This is the second trip for Mark and Phyllis. The rest are starting plans for their second trip.



Joe Rodgers, associate minister at Faith Christian Church in Brighton, Michigan, came back for his second trip. He and Bob Keese installed all the rainwater capture systems that are working phenomenally well and are in great demand by everyone on the mountain.

This whole team was special. They were all mature adults and therefore, I guess, didn't feel a need to prove their maturity. This team made getting stuck in the mud, on a cold, rainy night and having to sleep in the back of truck covered by a leaky tarp,

FUN! That was our first day together. After that, each day just kept getting better and better. God sent an excellent medical team along with men tall enough to lay those out-of-reach last rows of blocks, and then there was Mike, who put in about a hundred hours on the ATV to get all our supplies to the clinic AND gave a thousand rides to all the kids who were helping.



The King of Kings (the TapTap's name) stuck in the ditch for the night. It took seven hours to haul all our supplies and personnel to the church using the ATV and trailer.



I included this picture so that everyone can see that I do more than take pictures. After working with homemade six-inch blocks, that would crumble in your hands, and sandy mortar, it was PURE JOY to work with a nice, two-hole, eight-inch block and good mortar, mixed in our mixer using my secret recipe. My secret? Use half as much sand as my Haitian brothers specify. They realized something was different when they tried to remove a block and could not thump on it and knock it loose. The block and mortar had to be chiseled out. In case you don't hear from us again this Millinium, I and my family wish you a **HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS**, and may you have a prosperous and blessed new **CENTURY**.