

What I discovered while lying in bed for a month: I truly believe, and this experience confirms, that God has a purpose for everything and most importantly, no matter what the situation, He is there helping us through the situation. As I look back on my 28 days of immobility, I am unable to remember any individual days. It is as if the whole thing were just a day in my life. My herniated disc/spine surgery was Friday morning, Sept. 12 and by 11:30a.m. I was able to walk for the first time in a month. On Sunday, the 14th, I set out to do what I had planned to do a month earlier, go to church. As I sat through the praise time and then the sermon, I began to feel some discomfort and was considering quietly leaving but, one lesson I had learned in the past month was to consider the consequences before making the move, so I sat a while longer. As I sat I began thinking about Jesus and his life. At that moment a most profound thought came into my mind; I tried to compare my discomfort at that moment to Jesus' pain upon the cross. I tried to draw my entire month of pain into one day of pain and still, it did not compare to what I knew he had suffered for me. It was then that I realized I had been a full month without communing with my Lord. In thirty-seven years of Christian life, this past month was the longest I had been away from His table. A great need filled my heart. I must not miss this day of communing with my Lord. I felt great joy that day as I shared His supper with my Christian family. I felt great sorrow too, for all who disregard the value and importance in frequent and regular communion with our Lord. I also felt justifiable hatred toward Satan for the lie he has told; that by communing with our Lord less it will make the rare occasions more special. Men, if you express your love to your wife and family less, will that love grow? If you show your love more, will it decrease? Jesus said, "Do this to remember me."

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Can you look at this little boy and not feel his gaze pierce your heart? No, you are alive, you have a soul. When God made us to be like Him, He filled us with compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves. Those less fortunate make up over 90% of the world's population, so it's easy to say, "I can't save them all." Your conscience won't let you throw this picture away immediately, so you will stash it someplace where you won't have to look at it too often, maybe in your Bible. Later, when you clean out all the church bulletins, you will be able to toss this picture. OR Is this the year that you choose to make a difference in the world around you?

What will your New Year Resolution be? Need to lose weight? Put this picture on the refrigerator and remind yourself that with each snack, your snack is more than he will eat all day. As you stop snacking put the savings in an envelope to help this child or another just like him.

Need to stop smoking? Stick this picture on your LAST pack of cigarettes and each time you pull them out, remember, each cigarette costs more than the food he ate that day. Once again, put the savings in an envelope. **You can make a difference.**



Heather's back: Her family, friends and home church provided the prayer and financial support for Heather to return to the mountain and complete the internship that was cut short by the unexpected passing of her grandmother. Heather Siebenthal, a member of Post Road Christian Church in Indianapolis, calls the mountain "HOME" and is seeking a career that is compatible with serving as a missionary there. She spent her days helping in the clinic, learning to pull teeth, assisting in delivering babies, and a hundred other jobs. I thought she might help keep Teresa out of trouble but together they charged into a variety of challenges side-by-side and laughed as afterward, they shared their hair-raising stories.



I asked her if she had allowed the children to steal her heart. Her answer was, "Yeah, just like you let them steal yours when you first came here". When she discovered that a team was going in December and her classes didn't start until January, she convinced me to let her spend "one more week" with the children she has grown to love.

In the past two months I have been contacted by five families, all of which have made life changing choices as the result of their experiences in short-term missions. Our God is able to do wondrous things in our lives when we let Him in, when we reach out to Him, when we open our hearts and minds to Him, when we are willing to obediently follow Him on the adventure we call life.



Brothers to the Rescue: In Florida that phrase has a Cuban flavor but it fits perfectly for what I experienced when I got back on my feet again. It was a mental struggle to lay in bed and know that the school was starting without enough desks and there was absolutely nothing I could do about it but pray. But, you know what? When God is all you have, you soon discover that God is more than enough to solve any problem.



Reuben Nichols, Alex Bryant, Steve Handley, and Dave Elliott came to my rescue. Oh, me of little faith. I was still looking at the tasks that needed to be done and did not believe it was possible even with twice as many men. The next day I watched as 30 new desks materialized from a stack of lumber and steel. They were all on strict orders from my wife and my doctor to prevent me from lifting anything, so I cooked the meals and took the pictures.



Just as I was becoming hopeful that we might accomplish the second task of roofing the building in Kapotye, a situation arose that set us back a whole day. I will explain the situation on page 3. Finally, we arrived in Kapotye, a day late, but in high spirits. The men and women in Kapotye turned out in force and quickly learned how to assemble trusses. By the end of the first day, all the trusses were in place. By the end of the second day, all the tin was on the roof. Then, the sky opened up and the rains came down. We were able to check the entire roof for leaks, make a few adjustments, and leave them with a water-tight church building.

Three weeks later the men had demolished the old building, leaving a beautiful terraced courtyard in front of the new building. We need to put on 3 doors, finish off the gables and construct pews, then all will be ready for the revival services they are eagerly awaiting.





Greed can bring out a person's worst attributes. In August, after finishing the desks, we wanted to make a fast trip down to Kapotye to finish the roof, but we ran into a road block-- literally. The family of one of the teachers we did not rehire for many good reasons had cut a ditch in our driveway and would not let us pass until I either hired the woman PERMANENTLY or paid them the equivalent of her salary for not hiring her. I attempted to negotiate, but as we talked, more and more of the extended family came to see what was going on and then wanted a piece of the action, after all the land did belong to the whole family. I broke off negotiations when they could no longer decide how much they wanted and I returned to the clinic. Alexandre Antoine, the man pictured at the right, came to the clinic and told us not to give them a gourde. He said his BROTHER would never be satisfied and insisted that he go and get the police. Five hours later a truckload of well armed men in uniform arrived to resolve the situation.



People came and offer us a new road that had just one small problem: a 21-foot deep ravine, pictured left. All the land owners along the route signed contracts giving us free use of the land. The new road and bridge quickly became one of the biggest cooperative projects in the region. Alexandre and Andre took charge of the road crew of 18 men. They picked, hoed, shoveled, and hammered out the roadway and then covered it with large rocks. Another team of 8 men on their hands and knees pulverized the large rocks into gravel. Teresa stands in the middle of the finished road (bottom right).



Eleton took charge of the bridge project and recruited 10 men to work for him. A lady in the church came with 10 women and girls to carry sand for the concrete and one man came every day and hammered large rocks into gravel for the concrete. At last count he had made 48 wheelbarrows of gravel for the project. The bridge progress at left started with forms for the first level 12 feet above the ravine floor. We poured a thick deck and three walls, reinforced with tons of steel. Then we laid out a bowtie shaped top deck that is 14 feet wide in the middle with the ends fanning out, and is 30 feet long. The foot traffic on the road and bridge could easily reach 1,000 people each day. No more worry about slipping on wet rocks or the depth of the stream and no more climbing the ravine walls just to go to school or market or church. Best of all, everyone who follows the white stone road, ends up in the front yard of Seguin Christian Church.



I.D.E.S. (International Disaster Emergency Services) came to our rescue with funding assistance for the building materials of the bridge. As a missionary, I don't know what I would do without I.D.E.S. They have made it possible for us to overcome every impossible challenge. I hope and pray that after you read this, you will take the time to find out if your church supports their work. I don't know of another Christian organization that is able to accomplish as much good with each dollar received as I.D.E.S. Through them and the mission projects they support, Christ reaches out and touches lives around the world in times of crisis and need.





More brothers to the rescue: 2003 has been the best year yet! In spite or because of all that has happened, this has been a great year. I was able to send out a quick email stating that I needed some help. Joe Ballard and Mark McClaskey shot back an answer that they were packing to come and help. . . as soon as they discussed it with their wives and got their permission, of course. They happen to have truly great wives who also love the Lord. They took excellent care of me and kept me from lifting things while they hauled cement and steel for the bridge. I am looking forward to working with them many more times in the future. I have two teams from Mark's home church, Forefront Christian in Virginia Beach, VA and one team from Joe's, Crosspointe



Christian in North Carolina scheduled for July, 2004. **Sherry Donovan**, one of Teresa's classmates from college in Wisconsin, came for a working visit. Here is Sherry (left), up to her eyeballs in work at the clinic. It looks like dental day and for those of you who know me, you know that I DO NOT stick around the clinic on dental day. I can handle almost anything but the sound of a tooth extraction. Even typing those words makes me shudder and get light headed. At right, she shared in a one-day mobile clinic in Kapotyie. The people there are finding many good uses for their new church building. Sherry is a P.A. (physician's assistant), like Teresa, and is part of a practice in Wisconsin.



My son, **Paul and his wife, Jamie**, made a long awaited trip to the mountain. Paul had not been there for about four years and this was Jamie's first trip. Like the "pied piper," all the kids flocked to him to let him know he had been missed. They also gave their approval of "Madam Paul". Paul is the new youth minister at Ft. Caroline Chirstian Church in Jacksonville, FL. A team of youth and adults is planning a trip to Haiti in March. Jamie won't get to come on that trip because they are expecting an addition to the family in August. Their boys, Rylan (4) and Jaylen (2), are



hoping for a sister.



Have you ever thought of a tree as a miracle? Yeah, me neither, until I stuck my truck in a four-foot deep hole in the river. A winch is not much good unless you have something to attach it to. The palm tree in the picture, the only tree on the riverbank, was 96 feet away. My winch cable is 100 feet long. I pressed the orange button and my truck pulled itself across the river. Now, I check the river bottom for holes before I drive across and thank God for that tree with each crossing.

The autoclave, at right, was packed in a crate along with spare parts and solid carbon fuel, in 1964. Bob Cox's organization, **Surplus Connections Worldwide**, (www.surplusconnect.org) acquired the crate as one of many pieces of surplus stuff that they collect and then make available to Christian organizations. Within the crate were notes signed by those who had so carefully packed it 40 years ago. I cannot describe what/how I felt opening this package and seeing a gleaming, stainless steel instrument. There was not even a fingerprint or smudge anywhere on its surface. I probably should have tested it but didn't. I packed it and took it to Haiti. We put water in it, plugged it in and it began sterilizing dental instruments.



Bob, that deserves a **WOW!**

Roselin (Roro) Eustache will be preaching a revival to the Seguin congregation in January. The number of regular attenders has increased significantly over the past several months. We are hoping and praying that many will hear and respond to the Gospel message. This is, afterall, the reason we are there. Jesus is the medicine that gives eternal life. Knowing Him and His word is greater knowledge than can be learned in any school. The clinic, the school, the community projects and the one-to-one contact with volunteers will open doors, but Jesus is our only reason for being there.



Seguin Christian School 2003-2004



Some friends of FCM did something this year that I wish I would have thought of, they gave the gift of a student sponsorship to a member of their family for Christmas. That solves the problem of what to get someone who already has everything. One man, who has all daughters, got a little boy for Christmas. Think about it. Socks and underwear, fruitcake, a necktie, perfume, **OR** help a small child by providing education, food and medicine for a year. Which would you rather give or receive?

About 100 children still need a sponsor. The cost is \$25/month, \$75/quarter, or \$300/year.

In January we are taking two major steps forward on faith. First, we are starting the hot meal program. The kids need the food in order to be alert and able to learn their lessons in class. Many children are traveling long distances to get to school, often not getting breakfast at home before they leave, and coming without food or the means to buy something from the food vendors at the gate. I am going to start with meals twice a week and require that students attend the day before to qualify for lunch. Hopefully, that will improve attendance and not make lunch days the only days when students attend school. Secondly, as you can see in the pictures, more classroom space is needed. This year I am planning to add three more classrooms along the north edge of the playground and a covered area for preparing and serving lunch.

Christmas for the children is a series of events. First, Chrisnet, my new school administrator, planned a great Christmas Eve program that included singing, skits, Bible stories, and a banquet. I know it was huge because I approved and supplied the funds for all the food. Then, during the week of January 18, I will be there with a small team. We have been accumulating gifts that sponsors have sent. I have bought gifts from funds that sponsors have designated for Christmas gifts, and I have dipped into the general fund to buy gifts for all the rest of the children. I have a pretty good supply of marbles, rubber bands (they play a game with them), hair ties, socks, and, if the budget allows it, a small cash gift to each family. This is the dry season, a little cash would mean the whole family would get a meal. Did you have, and were you thankful for, a nice pot of rice and beans for your Christmas dinner?

I was able to find some books, written in Creole, to begin a library. The boys were so excited reading them, you would think I had brought "best sellers". One book was titled Eat Rabbit Every Week. Several boys have read it cover-to-cover and are ready to start raising rabbits. If you know of a farmer who has extra alfalfa or clover seed, I could sure use some. Both grow well on the mountain and there are no animal feed stores in Haiti.



2004 Schedule of Volunteers

January 16-24
March 12-20
April 3-10
May 29 - June 5
May 29 - July 17
July 2-10
July 9-17
July 16-24
July 23-31

The first half of 2004 is very busy. Many of the weeks overlap. Some of the teams will be doing construction while others want to experience the medical work in the clinic. Cindy and I use a much more detailed scheduling calendar because we must coordinate incoming and outgoing airline schedules, travel documents, register teams with the U.S. Consulate, and purchase and pack food and supplies. There is also three weeks when I will be tag-teaming with Bob Keesee who runs Rain Catchers, Inc. We will basically pass each other in the Port Au Prince airport parking lot. Bob's teams attach rainwater capture systems to houses that are far from good water sources.

There is still room for YOU, If you want a short-term mission experience. There are those who GO, those who SEND others through financial support, and those who PRAY for all the elements of a successful trip. This work can exist only when all three are operating at full power.

Annual Meeting

February 7, 2004
7:00 pm
741 Willow Grove Ter.
Davie, FL 33325
954-236-8405
If you are going to be in town and want to enjoy a rousing corporate meeting, give us a call.

The Farsight Christian Mission 16-20 page annual 990 form that all non-profit corporations file each year can be reviewed on the Guidestar.org website. It's a good place to check out any charity before you begin supporting them.

To briefly summarize our year 2003: Church attendance is up in Seguin and Kapotye about 50%. School enrollment is up 31%. Student sponsorship has doubled but we still need 100 more sponsors. A new church building was constructed in Kapotye. The total number of different patients treated at the clinic is close to 7,000 (2 years). Total funding for 2003 was down about 20% from 2002 but mission volunteers were also down about the same amount. We tightened the margin of cost for volunteers (charged less per person) hoping that more people could afford to come on a trip. This appears to have simply reduced our reserves that fund the projects. Overall, we ended the year still in the BLACK without borrowing any money.

The annual donations statements will be sent via first class mail next week to all who supported FCM this year. We did have a computer malfunction in August but rebuilt the records from our backup paper documents. If the statement you get does not agree with your records please contact us so we can correct your statement.

Prayer List

Teresa Murphy, our fulltime doctor. Pray for her health, ability, and security.

Congregations in Seguin and Kapotye. Voodoo and Satan are still strong in Haiti.

Christopher. The boy with the cleft pallet. He is going for his second surgery.

Teams of volunteers, coming from all over the U.S. to work with FCM in Haiti.

Strong leaders and churches here at home. Our outreach is only as strong as our foundation.

Safe travel. The air travel alone for volunteers this year could reach 500,000 miles.

The mission's support base. Over 500 churches and individuals make donations each year to support the work.

The political situation in Haiti. One year of peace would do wonders for the country.

384 Children in the Christian School. They need to understand the value of education.

Needs List

We need to begin planning to **replace the 1999 Hilux (4x4 pickup)**. This will be a major expense. (\$28,000 new)

Our **diesel generator**, the physical heart of the clinic, is down and may not be economically repairable. (\$3,000)

We need an **ATV** for short trips, and/or emergencies. (Donated, used, in good condition - shipping \$300)

Kitchen cabinets (\$500)

Rabbit hutches. 10 @ \$25. each

School supplies. Pencils, pens, paper, etc.

Library books - In Creole, French, early English

School desks - 30 at \$20 each.

Student rewards. 2 bicycles, (\$68. ea) Radio - battery free (\$10. ea), Backpack \$5. ea.

Many of these needs could be easily funded by a Bible School class, youth group, study group, or family. Are you part of a group that is looking for a new project?