

**OH ME OF LITTLE FAITH!** As the weeks and months on my team calendar began filling up, I could not help but become more and more excited. When twenty weeks were filled I announced that 2004 was going to be our **BEST YEAR YET**. At the FCM annual meeting in February, I announced to the board that 2003 was like a roller coaster ride but it appeared that in 2004 the roller coaster was about to leave its track. How could I have a **BEST YEAR YET** in the midst of a revolt and civil war? I am living proof that our God is a patient God. He is certainly patient with me. For Haiti to really and truly have a **BEST YEAR YET**, there had to be some radical changes and our unchanging God is the master of radical change for the good of His people. Teresa was able to return to Haiti on March 29. She had no problems purchasing medicines and supplies. The roads were all open and cleared of debris. Her families on the mountain were all elated to see her. Several ladies from the church came to help her reopen her house and clinic and do whatever cleaning needed to be done. The sweetest news though, was that the school had remained open and functioning and the masons continued working on the foundation for the new school building. When we began eight years ago, each time a team left, the locals cried and feared they would never see us again. Until this year, each time we left all work would cease, even instructions for work would go undone until we returned. I am so proud of them! As for me, I am behind schedule with the planning and logistics to make this the **BEST YEAR YET**. If you are one of the many people that were planning to go to Haiti with me, get your passport found and your toothbrush packed because it

looks like **2004 can be the BEST YEAR YET!**

### Farsight Christian Mission, Inc.

741 Willow Grove Terrace  
Davie, FL 33325-6392  
954-236-8405  
email:Farsight@bellsouth.net  
web:www.farsightchristianmission.org  
April 2004 - Issue #27

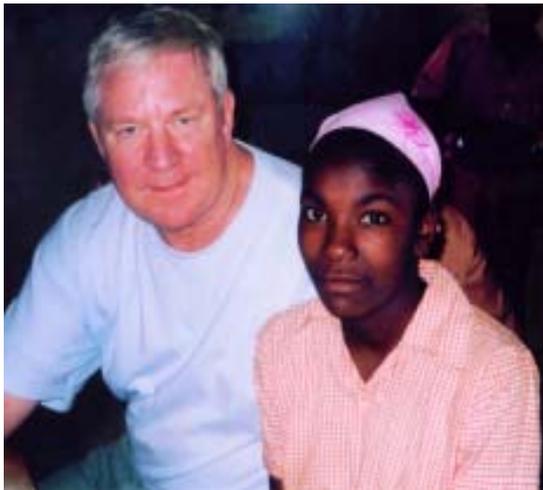
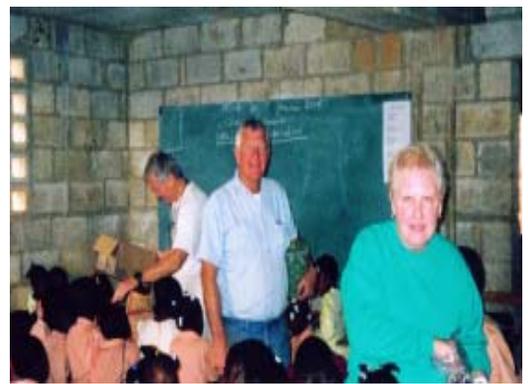
NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
FT. LAUDERDALE FL  
PERMIT NO. 4433



Harold Jerde, Norm Anderson, Tim Sheldon and Bobbi Denslow, the four with light colored hair, made up the first team of 2004. The three guys are from the Chicago area and Bobbi lives in Seattle. The guys built shelves in the clinic and painted the church and school. Bobbi assisted Teresa in the clinic and helped with the painting. The whole team spent a day and helped to pass out Christmas presents to all the school children. This year we had marbles, socks, pens, and hair bows for everyone. Well, almost - the boys didn't get hair bows. Then we had a special presentation ceremony for students with the best grades and/or perfect attendance. They received either a new book bag (backpack) or a combination radio/flash-light that doesn't need batteries - just turn the handle for 30 seconds and listen to music for 30 minutes.



At left, Tim and Norm are painting the school. This really helped to brighten the classrooms. At right, they all pass out gifts to the children. This year we moved from classroom to classroom and kept the children seated. This worked great and only a few children tried to sneak into another classroom and double up on their gifts. Below left, unlike many child-sponsor programs, we actually know our children, know where they live, know their parents and their brothers and sisters, so when Norm wanted to meet one of the many children he sponsors, it was a simple task to send one of the ever-present kids to tell Lucianna to come to the clinic. Every year, especially at Christmas time the children will come to the clinic and ask me who their sponsor is. I get out the big book and we look until we find their picture, then we read the name of the sponsor. They ask, "Where do they live", "how many kids do they have", and I give them all the answers that I know. It gets tough when the child finds their picture and then begins sounding out the sponsor name. . . U-N-S-P-O-N-S-O-R-E-D, and then ask, "Who is this?" for now I tell them, "that's me". They accept this answer but would really rather that I read off **your** name and could tell them where **you** live and how many children **you** have. I still have about 100 children wishing for a family of their own.



The next two pictures, at left, say so much. They have **persistence** and **faith** written all over them. In the first picture the young man is turning big rocks into gravel. Persistent people prevail. Even a rock must eventually yield if you hit it enough times. One important lesson here though, if you or someone you know has an immovable object planted squarely in life's path, beating one's head against it does not work. Knowing the best and proper use for each tool God has given us is key to our happiness and success. We all need to step back and assess each of life's obstacles or hindrances. If it does not melt away with an application of love, forgiveness or confession, then try a hammer. This is what the school yard looked like when I left in January and this is what I thought it would look like when I returned, except that all the trenches would probably be caved in from children running through them. So, you can imagine my total surprise when Teresa emailed me the next picture. That is way more than a beautiful 20ft x 40ft stone foundation. I know that every rock that is set in mortar to make the walls and every rock that filled the hole to make the floor area level was carried by the children in the school. In these pictures, I also see a new generation of Haitians that are willing to work for the common good of all the people in the community. There are a bunch of kids that believed me when I told them, God willing, I will return and help them build a new school building. **Most Haitians include "God willing" in all their planning statements. They recognize that they are not in control, God is.**



This is what the school yard looked like when I left in January and this is what I thought it would look like when I returned, except that all the trenches would probably be caved in from children running through them. So, you can imagine my total surprise when Teresa emailed me the next picture. That is way more than a beautiful 20ft x 40ft stone foundation. I know that every rock that is set in mortar to make the walls and every rock that filled the hole to make the floor area level was carried by the children in the school. In these pictures, I also see a new generation of Haitians that are willing to work for the common good of all the people in the community. There are a bunch of kids that believed me when I told them, God willing, I will return and help them build a new school building. **Most Haitians include "God willing" in all their planning statements. They recognize that they are not in control, God is.**



**Most Haitians include "God willing" in all their planning statements. They recognize that they are not in control, God is.**



13



14



1



2

### Fort Caroline Christian Church Team Goes To Merida, Mexico.

The team from Jacksonville, Florida were originally bound for Haiti but their spring break coincided with the worst of the fighting/burning/looting/killing that was taking place in Haiti. We decided, rather than postpone indefinitely their trip and waste a perfectly good spring break, we should look into other locations.

That's where Craig Gates (#5) and Christ's Mission to the Yucatan came to the rescue. I had worked with Craig in 1994 and have known him all his life. His father was my first minister and the man who baptized me a very long time ago. Craig likes to see the local churches fend for themselves, plan and do their own work and fund their own projects. On the other hand, the local people love the fellowship and assistance that an outside group can provide.

The team made many new friends, (#1) Callie Wilson and a little Mayan/Mexican girl play mimic. (#2) Several ladies came each day to cook for us. We did not eat anything American until we went to Burger King at the airport.

(#3) Exotic, but very good, Mayan/Mexican food was spread before us each day. Craig was kind enough to point out the sauces that were too hot for our delicate systems.

(#14,7) Dan Propper and Morgan King paint the fence in front of the church. The temperature, approaching 100 degrees, would almost dry the paint on the brush before they could spread it.

(#13,9,6,4) Ben Robertson, Debbie Davis, Christine DuMars and Rose Hayden were given the joy-filled task of trenching for a foundation for a parsonage. The assignment - Dig to bedrock or China, whichever comes first. (#10) James Nicholson helped to set poles for the scaffolding for the beam to continue the expansion of the church building.

(#12) Kyle Davis helped remove rocks from the well. One bucket of rocks on the end of forty feet of rope is not too heavy. By the fiftieth bucket, the rocks had gained significant weight.

(#8,11) Paul Halstead and Kristina Forgit are painting window frames at the academy. The property started out to be a church camp but has now become a preacher training center. We were able to camp out in these wonderfully rustic accommodations for one night.

At the beginning of the week we each received a hammock as our bed.

We all quickly learned how to hang it, roll it back up and most importantly

how to sleep without falling out of it.



12



11



10



9



8



7



3



4



5

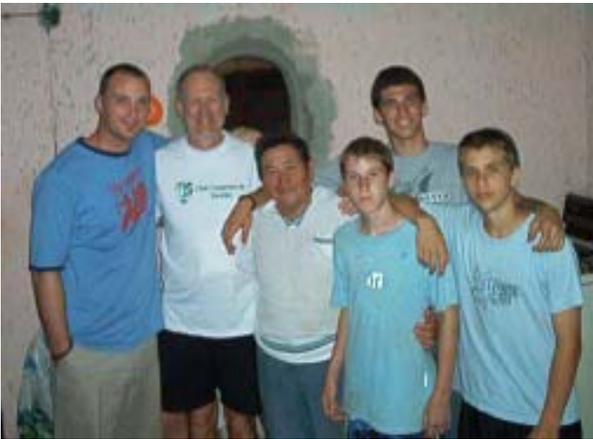


6



Caroline Propper and Rose Hayden were in charge of reroad cutting. In Haiti we have a “chopsaw“ for such jobs but Craig likes the “hacksaw“ so, the ladies, put their backs into it. After hours of hard work in the sun and a really good meal, Marla Nicholson, Debbie, Christine and Caroline demonstrate various “Siesta” techniques. The guys practiced the siesta also; I just missed the photo-op.

The siesta is how the Mexican worker recharges so that he/she can work a twelve or fourteen hour day rather than just eight. The afternoon is also the time for showers since by that time the sun has taken the chill out of the water. Dinner, when the workday is done, is served around eight p.m.



All the guys stayed at Serapio’s house. Dan and Kyle got a back bedroom, Paul and I hung our hammocks in a back storeroom and Ben and James slept in the kitchen. Every room in a Yucatan house has hammock hooks so all rooms double as bedrooms when company comes or as the family grows.

If thoughts could kill, all of Serapio’s roosters would have died that week. They lived just outside the back window, about five feet from where we tried to sleep. They usually hit full volume about four a.m. By the end of the week, I think those Spanish roosters figured out what we were thinking and stayed quiet until about five.

A highpoint of our week was getting to swim in an underground pool/river. A man was blasting a hole for a septic tank and blasted his way into a cavern

about 80 ft. across and 40 ft. deep. The domed ceiling was covered with crystal stalactites and the 5-10 foot deep pool was clear and cool. It was worth giving up siesta for an hour of swimming.

On Wednesday, we divided into four groups and went to dinner in the homes of church families. It is amazing the fun we had, overcoming the language barrier with sign language, charades, and a Spanish/English dictionary.



As I look at Mexico I can’t help but compare it with my experiences and knowledge of Haiti. At first look it appears that life is better in Mexico but then I learn that the average wage for a Mexican worker is about the same as a Haitian worker. (I think the income of Haiti is inflated and they don’t really make what the government reports). In Mexico, cleanliness, education, church and family are all extremely important. There is one thing though, that is universal; Christian love. Differences in language, culture, color, wealth or the lack of it all disappear within the Christian family. We are really able to become one big family with one Father and one home that is our common hope.



**The last word.**

**Difficult times provide tremendous opportunity.**

This year can be Haiti’s “Best Year Yet”. But it may depend upon your continued prayer and financial support. The churches, school, and clinic are all having a tremendous impact upon the families in S.E. Haiti. There are about 500 people studying God’s Word, another 400 children studying the 3 R’s and God’s Word, and Teresa, the medical volunteers, and staff have shared God’s love with almost 7,000 different patients at the clinic.

Today, Haiti hangs in the balance between **The Best Year Yet - and - The Worst Year Yet.** I cannot stress enough how much we need your prayers and your support. At the end of the year I want to look back and be able to say that I did my best. My prayer is that you will do the same.

God said to test Him when it comes to giving. Give a blessing, a gift of support, and see if He does not return a greater blessing to you. I know He will. He is waiting for you.