

## In this Issue:

- Spring Break 2007 - Three teams in March/April make great progress in Jamaica.
- Summer teams; Mexico June 30-July 7 and Jamaica July 21-28. There is still room on the MX team so give me a call if you want to go. More details inside this letter.
- FCM and the Halsteads are moving to cut costs and to offer new opportunities and services to t e a m s , churches, and missionaries.

A view of paradise. Donna and Carriel Graham have a great view of Montego Bay. At night the sky is full of stars overhead. This is really great until you realize that this room in their house is supposed to have a roof over it. On a missionary budget and missionary priorities, the home projects wait and wait and wait.



**FarSight**  
Christian Mission

**Levern & Cindy Halstead**

741 Willow Grove Terrace

Davie, FL 33325-6392

954-236-8405

email: [Farsight@bellsouth.net](mailto:Farsight@bellsouth.net)

web: [www.farsightchristianmission.org](http://www.farsightchristianmission.org)

April 2007 - Issue #34

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



Challenges overcome! One step at a time. For teams to go to Jamaica we had to compete with tourists and Spring Breakers for lodging. Even at the great deal of \$25 per person per day it still totaled \$2,100 of “rent” for 12 people for a week. I told Carriel that it made my heart hurt to pay out that kind of money and not have anything to show for it. So, he and Donna went to work on the unfinished portion of their house and got some additional roof sections poured. Cindy and I, along with Cindy’s sister and her husband, Connie and Charles Coblenz, planned a 4-day trip to Jamaica to build bunks. At left, Carriel and Tim are putting the finishing touches on two of the nine bunks. Shadecloth, normally used as a patio screen, makes a great mattress when its stretched tightly over the frame. It’s not quite hammock; I call them “sling-beds.” Add some really tired people and everyone sleeps like babies - except for the snoring.

Six months of rain kept the project stalled and the footing trenches full of water. Finally, in February the local men were able to pour the footings. In some areas the footings went seven feet down to find a firm base. Next, the local men laid blocks to bring the foundation to ground level.



**March 17-24**, twelve seniors from the Seacoast Christian Academy, along with two teachers, gave their spring break to help with the project. A few of the kids claimed this was their first excursion beyond their own zipcode. My son, Paul, one of their teachers, and I were the only two that understood the tasks they would face this week.

They were greeted by mountains of goeey, wet, clay and rock that was mounded up to five feet high inside of the footing. This had to be leveled and packed. Shovels would not penetrate the mounds so picks and pitchforks were used to break up the material and then the clods were moved by hand, in buckets, or with a rake.



The mountains did their best to resist but youthful energy prevailed. By week's end, not only had they conquered the mountains but they had bent and tied steel, assembled plywood forms, and mixed, carried, and poured over 1,000 buckets of concrete to form a belt around the entire building. The project was ready for the next team.



**But wait, there's more!** As the first team to stay at the Graham's house there was also essential other projects that needed their immediate attention, like mosquito netting on all the windows and hooking up electric lights to the rooms. And then the skill every young lady needs to acquire - welding. Above, Katrina Villar touches her first shovel. Below, Cody Whitehead helps Paul with the screening, Ethan Cadore assists me with electric lights and Stephanie Seymour shows off her newfound talent as a welder.





**The week's story in pictures.**  
Ms. Simpson (Stacy) and Mr. Halstead (Paul) lead by example as they passed buckets of concrete.

Carriel helps to make kitchen duty fun.

Bryan Ballas and Dustin Read begin moving the first of many mountains.

Ethan Cadore and Stefanie Richardson are happy to be cleaned up as the team takes off on one of our little adventures.

After working in mud all day, Jessica Pingel enjoys our secret little piece of the Caribbean, a tiny sandy spot at the foot of a coral cliff.

Kevin Wisser displays the results of how NOT to apply sunblock. It's not totally his fault as he had help with the application.

Danielle Johnston saved the toad from entombment in the footing but we will never know if he was a prince since she chose not to apply the kiss.

Stephanie and Katrina model the snorkel equipment. Would they win a beauty contest? Judge this team on their spirit and they are all winners.

Kalyn Wilkes and Tate Brown-Smith show that spirit shared by the whole team.

For me the week was like having 14 kids in one big happy family. It was a GREAT WEEK!



## March 31-April 7

Top Row

Tom Plahitko & Doug Rawlings

Second row

Scott Ancarrow & Lindsay Ferguson

Bottom row

Delaina Plahitko, Ashlee Koenig, Tyler Yentes, Dustin Gardner, Angela Zachary, and Melissa & Brandon Jackson. All are part of Northview Christian Church in Danville, Indiana.



Building material tends to get “borrowed” and not returned so our blocks arrived at the job site on Monday morning. Before we could lay blocks, we had to unload about 1,800 of them for the week.



Next, came lessons in laying blocks so that everyone could help with the project.

There were many other jobs to keep the whole team busy. In Jamaica, all the block pockets have to be filled with concrete so we laid four rows and then mixed concrete and filled the wall. Lay four more rows and then fill the holes. Filling row 13 was a challenge; it meant standing on Jamaican scaffolding and then lifting a bucket of concrete about head high and pouring it into the hole.



After four days of hard work, all the walls were complete except for an opening in the front that needed to remain open.



**FCM is moving!!** With our new focus on Jamaica and Mexico, it is no longer essential for us to be in South Florida as a part of team logistics. The cost of living has continued to rise to the point that for us to remain would require less mission work and more income-producing work. Moving to the Chattanooga, Tennessee area will allow us to continue and even expand the projects and services of FCM.

The new “Mission Center” alias “cabin in the woods” or “our home” will offer space for staff retreats, youth get-aways, missionary lodging while on furlough, and maybe even a “Bed & Breakfast” in our spare time. I also have some ideas for implementing a missionary bootcamp to provide training in water purification, creative electrical supply, agriculture, generators, motors, and other areas.

The whole plan involves ideas, projects, and strategies too numerous to list. Hopefully, by the next newsletter we will have a new address and more details. Please keep Cindy and me in your prayers as we make this move so we can continue this good work.

Don't forget there is still room on the team going to Mexico, scheduled for June 30-July 7 - Call me!