

FarSight

Christian Mission

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Farsight Christian Mission (FCM) is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Checks should be made out to Farsight Christian Mission and sent to our TN address. In the near future we hope to be able to accept credit/debit card payments although we discourage any donation or payment that would incur a debt requiring multiple payments against the principle and interest.

Hi Everyone;

I've got all kinds of news to share. I guess I will share some bad news first so that I will be able to end with news that is positive and encouraging.

Last January 16, the Grahams, missionaries in Jamaica, were returning home after Bible study and were confronted by armed robbers who came into their home. Donna and Ariele were both hurt and needed medical attention. The police said families that have American (white) visitors come and stay in their homes are being targeted. The Graham's opening their home for mission teams to come and build a new church building, made them a target for armed robbers. Donna's injuries were compounded by the fact she was just completing chemotherapy and her immune system was down.

There must be a silver lining here somewhere. A stone wall, topped with chain link fence is being installed around their property. The dogs got to go to guard dog school. Security lights are being installed on the perimeter of the property. And, hopefully, they will get that treacherous driveway fixed and paved. To feel safe in your home . . . priceless!

FCM has designated up to \$2,000 to assist the Grahams with these security upgrades. This will dip into funds that would have otherwise been put toward the new construction project but I know that helping the Grahams in their time of need is the right thing to do.

You will be getting a rebate check and maybe a refund check too. Once you have paid off your bills, if you have any left over, think about supporting one or more of the projects FCM will be working on this year. You are also welcome to join a team going to Jamaica or Mexico and work on one of the projects, enjoy the fellowship and the culture.



The Graham home with new wall going up.



Church construction continues.



The roof/2nd floor is formed and poured.

Raul Sanores and his family thank you for their indoor bathroom and kitchen with a roof that does not leak. In 2007 FCM had some funds designated to help with this need. Raul is one of the ministers working with Craig Gates in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. The growing ministry absorbed all their income and time so that their home remained little more than a block shell. Yet, when we had a team there they graciously opened their home and prepared lunch for us every day.

I was unable to organize and recruit a team to go and help with the work. So, I sent them the designated funds and added enough to them to fund the project.

There is still much to be done. Church buildings for several of the nine churches are waiting for our help. Several of the minister/missionary families are living in conditions similar to that of the Sanores family before we helped them.

Craig and Rhonda are in the midst of purchasing and developing land to make room for visiting groups. They need our help.

Once again this year I am looking for anyone that has a week to give, please contact me for information on a team going to Mexico in late June.

Craig is a great host and does his best to not only get lots of work done but he also likes to share the culture and the cuisine. The Mayan ruins are an unforgettable experience as are the Aztec caves and cave swimming. We are working on the details of offering a 50% mission trip so that you get to experience the joy of working on a mission project, fellowshiping with Christian families AND also get all the amenities of a tourist.



The Sanores family



The new indoor bathroom



The new kitchen
No more leaky tarpaper roof



In the fall of 2004, I was sitting on the porch of the mission building in Seguin, Haiti. Eight or ten of the young men were gathered there and we were talking about projects in Haiti. In my very best Creole I told them that there would come a day when I would not be there with them and that each of them would have to become me and continue the work of spreading the Gospel and helping those in need.

Their first response hurt my feelings, made me laugh, and made me proud to think of the growth and maturity of these young men in the ten years I had known them. Their response was, "Pastor Levern, speak to us in English so we can understand what you are saying."

I restated my message in English and those young men accepted the challenge. Twice, that I know of, they saved my life.

And now, one more has taken on the challenge to share the Gospel. Nego Louis helped as a translator one summer and has been a part of the FCM team ever since. Reaching out to the youth of Haiti has been his special calling. Nego is currently in the U.S. adding to his education for ministry and speaking to some churches and mission committees in hopes of getting some support for his work.

Keep Nego in your prayers. In a month he will return to Haiti to continue the work there. The situation in Haiti is still desperate and tragic. An estimated 11 million people there are uneducated, unemployed and under-nourished. How much work would you do for \$100? Many families will work a year for that much money.

At the FCM annual meeting last February 17, the board of directors agreed to a one year commitment to support Nego and to continue the work in Haiti. As with every undertaking we take the first step and continue along the path of faith that God will touch people to join us in this walk and provide the support needed to complete this work.

Harold Jerde and Norm Anderson had just returned from Haiti a few day prior to coming to the annual meeting. Cindy told them not to try the driveway to our house but they didn't listen. The next day a 4x4 wrecker was able to lift Norm's car out of the ravine without damage.



Nego P. Louis, missionary



Youth concert



Church service in Seguin



I have added a berm along the side of the drive so future guests won't slide off into the ravine. Until we get the drive paved it's still best to park at the bottom and let us chauffeur you to the top in our 4x4. If you are ever on I75 in Tennessee and you come to exit 11, please stop in.

FCM 2008 Annual Meeting

We had a good crowd of Board members and guests for the February 17 meeting. Added to the board were Harold Jerde of DeKalb, IL and Amanda Marciniak of Shepherdsville, KY. Also present were Bill (dir) and Jan Stobaugh, Paul (dir), Jamie, Rylan, Jaylen, Ethan, and Addison Halstead, along with guests Frank and Carol Graham of Michigan, and Norm Anderson of Illinois. Cindy was there as usual to cook the dinner and I was there to pass out reports and run the PowerPoint presentation. Frank and Carol came a week early to help us achieve the impossible; make the mission house habitable and able to host the meeting.

Absent were Joe Ballard of North Carolina, who had music obligations at church that Sunday, and Ken Powers of Florida. Ken sat by the phone waiting for me to call so he could tele-conference the meeting but I messed up. I had not charged my cell phone and we don't have any land-line service to the house yet. I got a little distracted having to pluck Harold and Norm out of knee-deep mud and then the mountain top was enveloped in a thunder storm.

The financial report showed another decline in support. We actually spent a little more than we took in, which eliminated what was left over in 06. When I am able to tighten the belt around my waist, indicating that I have lost a little weight, and am slowly getting back into shape after cancer surgery and three spine surgeries, I feel really good. I do not feel so good when I have to tighten the belt on mission projects. Then I remember that it's all God's work and God's money. My job is to wisely use what He entrusts to me for as long as He wants me to work.

In 2008 FCM will be focusing on the following projects:

1. Projects to aid missionary - Craig Gates, ministers, and church construction in Mexico. To do this we need volunteers and/or financial support.
2. The church construction and missionary security project in Jamaica. We are making plans for housing teams away from the Graham's home. Teams and funds are needed.
3. Nego Pierre and the youth program he is leading in Haiti. I believe it wise at this time not to expose volunteers to the increased risks of civil unrest, random kidnappings and violence, and deadly disease that plagues the Island.
4. Paul and Jamie Halstead will be going to Roatan, Honduras to evaluate this little island for future evangelism and volunteer work projects.
5. Provide logistics support for Harold Jerde's teams. One team is going to Alaska in June.
6. The mission house has booked its first youth group retreat and will soon be available for staff retreats, youth groups, travelers on their way North or South, and missionaries in need of temporary lodging.

FCM no longer has a bulk mailing permit so this newsletter is coming to you as First Class mail. This helps us a little in that the post office notifies us of your change of address. As a part of FCM's belt tightening and wise use of the funds we have, I would really appreciate getting an email from everyone who would like to receive this newsletter via email. That would save us about \$1 per newsletter. I also post the newsletters on our website so you can read them anytime, send a link to a friend, etc.

The work of FCM is supported three ways. The majority of support comes from you, individuals who have seen our work and/or who have participated in a mission trip and find us worthy of your support. We have four churches and a Ladies Fellowship that send monthly support. And finally, we have the volunteers that not only go and work on a project but also raise funds to pay for their trip and contribute to the cost of the project. There is a direct relationship between donations and accomplishments. At this time when it seems that every household is experiencing financial stress I once again accept the challenge to do more with less. It is really exciting and spiritually uplifting because we have come to that point where God's hand will be clearly visible in each accomplishment. He makes doing the impossible look easy.