

FarSight

Christian Mission

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2008 is turning out to be a pretty good year! I did have my doubts, taking into account the economy, the global conflict, the political battle that was waged, and the accumulative effect all this has on interest and support for missions. I kick myself for having these doubts when I once again realize that God is above and unaffected by all of our petty worries. And that is why He gets full credit for all of this year's accomplishments.

In the April newsletter I listed project commitments for Jamaica, Mexico, Haiti, and Honduras. I am pleased to announce that all those commitments have been met. Some seed has

fallen on good soil; JnMarie JnBaptiste, a young man, being baptized in the picture, is one of twenty-four who responded to Nego's summer rally in Haiti. Here are the others that are considering that final plunge but have run into family obstacles or need additional education in the Gospel message to convince them of that next step. Please pray for the following young people.

Vladimi Belace, Woodley Balace, Barry-Jhon Eglantin, Guerline Luxana, Nickenson Lafortune, Olancia Laguerre, Nancy Dumond, Jn Marie JnBaptiste, Myra Adonis, Lyvia Eustache, Mackendy Drouillard, Antihone Nathalie, Augustin Natache, Mackenson Jn Jacques, Davidson Pierre, Milton Dupuy, Mirtha Joseph, Elvie Eustache, Lucia JnPierre, Jules Hamecon, Jude Louis, Gary Gue, Ousvelt Adonia, Duverger Saintilien.

All year I have resisted Nego's appeal for help with a school in Maplat. His continued steadfastness to the Word and to the work is causing me to reconsider. FCM would need some sponsors (about 50) to step up and help. Currently, Nego's funding runs out in February so I am also looking for help just to keep him working.

Christ's Mission to the Yucatan

After 23 years of moving from one rented house to another, Craig & Rhonda Gates are finally buying a house. As a mission house it will be a hotel, youth hostile, conference center, Bible school classroom and whatever else is needed. They are appealing for about \$11,000 to complete the purchase while the peso/dollar exchange is really good. If you would like to help them, **NOW** is the perfect time. You can send support to FCM and just put CMY on the memo line or call me and I will give you the address to send it directly to CMY.

Craig has ventured into Cuba with his Mexican team of evangelists. The result is a quiet Gospel Revolution. There is no man-made regime on this earth that can resist the Word. The Force and power of the Gospel is not a push or shove or stomp. It does not beat one down but rather it draws one up. While bombs and threats will stiffen one's resolve to resist, an open invitation to erase the past and start over in a love relationship with an eternal God is irresistible.

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.



The Christian Appalachian Project is in Eastern Kentucky. Harold Jerde has been trying to get me to go there with him for some time now. In October, he and I led a group of nine to Martin, KY to “make-over” the home of an elderly widow.

Before I can tell you about the project and the team I want to try and describe my initial observations. I was amazed by the similarities between some Third-World countries and what I was seeing here in my own back yard. How can two such worlds coexist side-by-side without one impacting the other? In one world, there were nice homes with nice people busily going about their jobs and families, living in homes built to the current codes with indoor plumbing, insulation, shingles, double-pane windows, (like we all live in). In the other world, living just a bit further down the lane, almost invisible in the shadows, are the poor, jobless folk. The construction style I think was referred to as “box-built.” The walls were constructed using 1x whatever, with siding on the outside and drywall on the inside. The foundation came from the wood pile, which rotted away slowly, lowering the edges of the house onto the ground, leaving the middle up on the posts that had not rotted. The windows, made for a 4 1/2” wall thickness, stuck into the room 2 1/2 inches. There was no insulation anywhere so moisture formed on the floor when it got cold outside; eventually turning into a slimy mold.

What I have just described is the widow’s house. The slope in the floor was so steep that 8” cement blocks under the head of the bed made the bed level. An addition on the house was added with the floor matching up with the already sagged floor so we could not jack anything up without causing the roof to flex and leak.

In three rooms we tore all the floors out down to the bare ground and then replaced them by “floating” level decks inside the walls and attaching the walls to the sides of the deck. After laying linolium we put all her furniture back, gave her big hugs and headed for home.

The construction was a lot of fun but two other parts of the week are noteworthy. The meals provided by CAP were great and the team fellowship in the evening was pure pleasure.

If you would like to get involved in an inexpensive but richly rewarding short-term mission trip without leaving the U.S., I would be happy to share a week with you in E. KY.

The four beautiful young ladies pictured here are an extra special work of love for Harold Jerde. He met them on a previous CAP trip when they made repairs to the house the girls were living in with their aunt. Their aunt had taken them in after their mother had tried to sell them in exchange for drugs.

Only Christians can make this world a better place. If you and I don’t do something, nothing will get done.



Norm Anderson and Chris Fisher work with Jack (supervisor in Black) on one room while Lisa, Leslie (other supervisor), and I work in another. The rest of the crew are outside cutting and hauling lumber.



Roatan, a part of Honduras, missed out on the Spanish conquests. This little island in the Gulf is unique in many ways. When the Spanish monks brought Catholicism to the mainland they bypassed Roatan. Briefly, there were some English plantations and some slaves brought in to work the fields. So, the language spoken on this little piece of Honduras is a combination of English, Spanish, and native African. There are beautiful reefs around the island that brings some tourism and a cruise ship stops weekly to load up on handcrafted souvenirs. On cruise ship day, many of the children spend the day in jail because the police round them up so they don't bother the tourists.



Paul & Jamie Halstead went to Roatan this past June to further examine the potential for "fields being ripe for harvest." The managers of a children's home they visited offered them the keys and asked if they were willing or able to stay and take over immediately. I'm glad they came home since Cindy and I were in Jacksonville grandchild sitting. It was a wonderful week of fun for us but the luxury of grandparenting is that you get to go home to peace and quiet when the visit is over.



The kids on the island were not shy. They gave an open-hearted welcome to all who would give them some attention. Here, Jamie shares a photo-op with one of the boys.

The children's home is still mostly a shell with much of the inside waiting for some builder/volunteers to come and finish it. "What is" and what "could be" are as far apart as the East is from the West.

Paul would really like to see an island-wide youth sports program/ministry. Both the island officials and the cruise lines should welcome and even provide support for a program that would solve their problems while providing a benefit to all the kids.



I know the economy is bad. I know that support for mission work is way down for every missionary I have talked to. I know the fear of the unknown and how that irrational fear can be a powerful controlling force in a person's life. In spite of all this, I am hoping and praying that I can recruit enough volunteers to take up to five teams to Roatan in 2009.

I don't know of any better medicine for the soul than to go and help someone whose problems are far greater than my own.

The Apostle Paul prayed for his ailments to be removed. I have tried to practice a different approach. After cancer, three spine surgeries, two eye surgeries, and countless other maladies, I try to thank God for these inconveniences and have countless times said to myself, "I would not want to trade my problems for yours," when I see someone less fortunate than me. The next thought to follow is automatic; "If your situation is worse than mine, what can I do to help you?"

You don't have to go to Honduras or E. Kentucky to find someone less fortunate and in need of help. You may just have to go next door. God's light to the world, His Son, shines the brightest during dark times. In my 56 years I cannot remember any darker times than we are in now. This is all the more reason for all of us to rise up to meet this darkness and drive it back where it came from.



Jeremiah David Marciniak arrived on October 14, 2008. He was 8# 3oz. and 20 inches long. His mom, Amanda (our daughter), and dad, Jason are all doing fine. He is our sixth grandchild.

Cindy (grandma) was there for the delivery and stayed until mother and child were settled and got their routine of changing, eating, changing, sleeping, and changing well established.

I was able to spend a day with him on my way home from my week with CAP.

Be honest now, have you ever seen a more beautiful little boy?!

Back to the business of FCM

As a recipient of this newsletter you are probably already financially supporting FCM, or a volunteer who has gone with me onto the mission field. So, this appeal is not to you directly; you are already the life-blood of FCM and the sole reason we still exist. I need you to share FCM with others. With your church. With your mission committee. With your Bible school class and your home study group. FCM needs all the prayers we can get and we need to expand the financial base we operate from.

I look at the mission finances every month and numbers tell a rather stark truth. Each month, less is coming in than we spend on our commitments and projects in five countries. FCM support has dropped 90% in the last three years. I have found that this decrease is being felt by most missionaries I have talked to recently.

Please help me with one or more of the following:

1. Forward this newsletter to your Christian friends. Encourage them to get on the FCM email list.
2. Ask your Bible school class to sponsor a child in the Maplat school. (any amount)
3. Ask your missions committee to consider monthly support of FCM. I will answer any questions and gladly come to meet with any committee that is willing to consider support for FCM.
4. Think about, then pray about helping someone less fortunate. Your neighbor, a friend, a family member, or take a big step and volunteer for E. Kentucky, Roatan, or Mexico.
5. Have a yard sale and split the proceeds with FCM.
6. PRAY - PRAY and PRAY some more for FCM, Nego in Haiti, Craig in Mexico, the Grahams in Jamaica, the open door into Roatan, and the four girls in KY.

Let me know which challenges you accepted and how you did.

Here's the whole team that participated in the CAP project. Most of them are either retired or old enough to retire, but they are living proof that a person is never too old to serve the Lord.

