



FARSIGHT Seeing a need beyond our own...
And doing something about it.
Levern Halstead Family
741 Willow Grove Terrace
Davie, FL. 33325

For Emily Baldwin the mission trip was going to be a summer adventure before starting back to college. She had no idea the effect five days in Haiti would have on her life. I had warned her about the pickpockets at the airport. I did not warn her that the people on Seguin Mountain might steal her heart. Returning home, she told her parents that “somehow, somehow, my future is in mission work”. On Sunday she sang special music. It just happened that the recruiter for Florida Christian College was there. After church he approached her and said, “I don’t know why I am telling you this, but if you want to go to a Christian College, classes start in a week and I will help you get registered”. The next day she withdrew from Florida Atlantic University and enrolled in Florida Christian College. Keep this young lady in your prayers. She is one of the rare few that possess the heart, soul, and talent to make great changes in this world.

Do you think what happened on Sunday was an coincidence? Me neither. Read on and you will see why.



Joe Salvagni: This was his second trip. He said the March trip was quite an experience but he wasn’t totally prepared to see God’s handiwork so close and personal as he did on this trip. Joe’s faith was tested and he found it equal to the task.

At the Miami airport, twice they told him he could not go because he did not have a passport. We explained that he had no problem with birth cert. and driver’s lic. in March. Finally, they said he could go but would not be allowed to return from Haiti. It was Haiti’s new rule that required the passport. I watched as faith replaced worry on his face and he responded; “OK, lets go to Haiti, if I can’t come home then I will stay and work until they figure a way to get me home.”

Joe’s “insufficient” documents became “diplomatic immunity”. On the return home each passport was inspected and stamped but Joe’s documents were not even unfolded. Each official just waved him through. In U.S. customs he was missing a document and the agent handed him a blank form and stamped it as he welcomed him home. In the picture Joe is surrounded with part of the kid-pack that followed him everywhere.



The first goal of Farsight V was to finish the roof. We brought the necessary tin and nails with us. My son Paul and Joe had the roof finished early Friday morning. It is a truly beautiful structure that is used almost daily by the church family. Since they have no TV, telephone, car, computer game or mall to distract them or use up their time, they like to spend their free time fellowshiping, singing, and studying God’s word. We all could learn a good lesson from our brothers and sisters on Seguin Mountain.



Our second goal was to evaluate the population of Helix Aspersa Muller, (escargot) or to most of us SNAILS.

I sent several boys in search of the biggest snails they could find. In less than an hour they returned with about thirty pounds of snails. The snails, once I get the transportation and processing in place, are worth a WEEK'S WAGES!! For now, we turned them loose.

The same critters that have been eating their gardens all these years are about to repay the families ten and a hundred fold.

Companies in California and New Hampshire have already contacted me inquiring whether they can purchase ALL the escargot I can import to them.

The door has also opened to Haiti's Minister of Agriculture. He has shown great interest in both the snails and also in the water reservoir projects to be described in our third goal.

WATER! Undoubtedly the most precious item on the mountain. The people walk miles every day to collect and carry water to their homes.

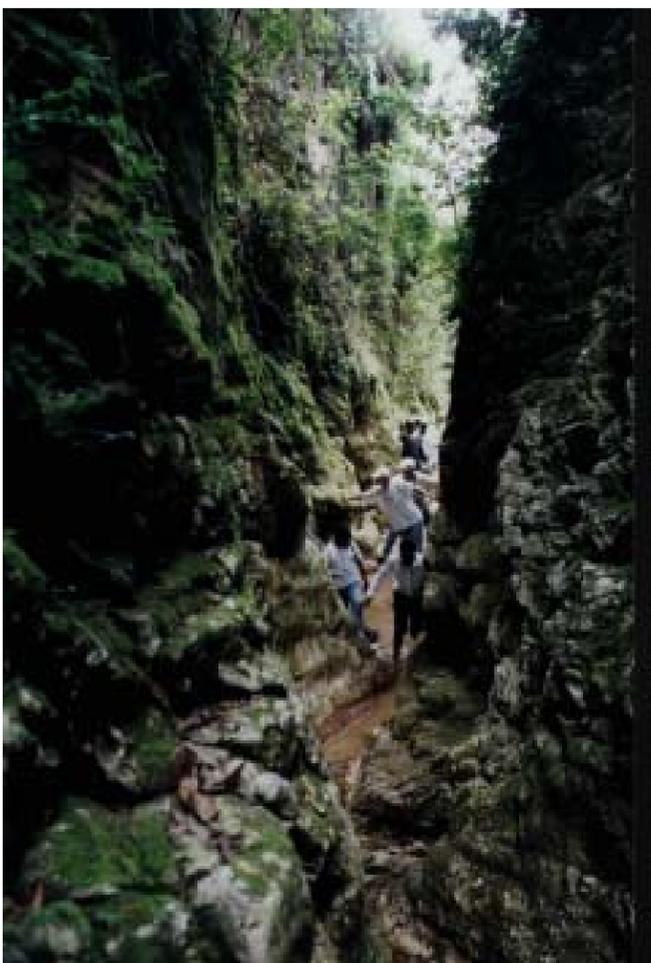
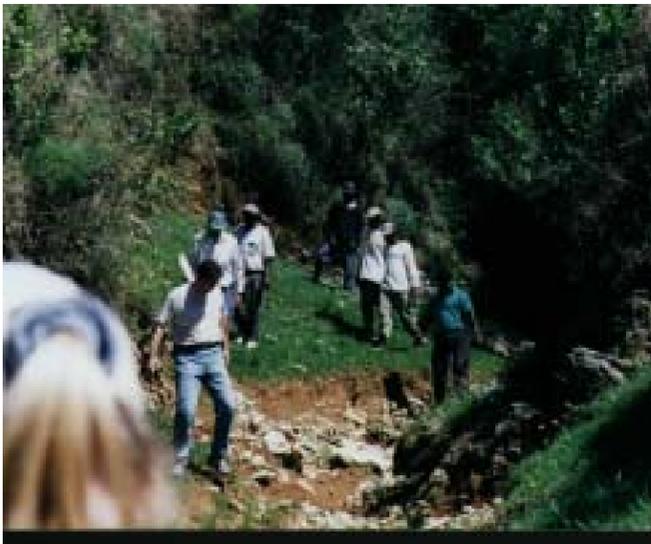
Goal #3 was to survey the canyons etched in the side of Seguin Mountain to see if they could be made into reservoirs. Have you ever seen an engineer get excited? You should have seen Paul Celauro practically skipping and dancing as we trekked down one canyon and up another. We found rock formations "MADE FOR" making into dams. We found deep, cool, solid rock ravines that have the potential of holding ten million gallons of water.

What do you do with all that water? You irrigate. You bathe. You filter it for drinking. You plant fish in it for food and for market. You run it through a turbine and make electricity. With Electricity comes opportunities in education. I am positive the entire village would turn out to watch the movie "The life of Jesus". Best of all, you can use the water to BAPTIZE all those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

On Friday night the church came together for an ALL-NIGHT song-dance-prayer meeting, over twenty people had accepted Jesus and were awaiting baptism. Sufficient water for baptism is a day's walk down the mountain. The congregation brought food and bedding and were incorporating a four day mission trip into the baptismal service. Saturday morning after we left they gathered their belongings and started down the mountain to call on every family and hold services in every village they came to. They would camp-out each night and eat from their pots of rice & beans. There was only one Bible and only one man that we are aware of who can read but each Christian is well equipped with the full armor of God, having spent countless hours memorizing scripture.

It is THEIR vision to establish ten churches between Seguin and the Caribbean through their efforts and with our help. The land for the second building site has already been donated.

God is opening doors for us to help in developing the infrastructure and resources of the island, providing work and education for the people in the Name of Jesus Christ. With your help and prayers there will be a spiritual and physical revival of the people and the land of Haiti.



FUTURE GROUP PROJECTS

1. FIX THE TRUCK or replace it.
 2. Put a floor in the new building. 2,300 sq. ft. of concrete.
 3. Put shutters on all the windows and doors where needed.
 4. Build pew/desks for church and school use. I have the plans.
 5. Build a new bridge over the deep canyon, with hand rails. Animals and sometimes kids slip on the old one.
- If you are interested in long term projects like reservoirs, dams, roads, building #2, teaching, etc., write me. These are all great group projects. Pick one and finance it or better yet, see your gift in action, come and be a part of the team that does the work.



Paul Celauro was the engineer on the team. Between projects here at home, he was eager to apply his skills for the Lord. He helped survey, diagram, and calculate the capacity of the canyons. He also brought a high volume water filter of his own design that worked marvelously to provide safe, great tasting water. Marilyn Athey became our Public Relations person, meeting with all the women of the village.

She shared in many conversations but is not sure whether they were sharing recipes or fashion tips. She did a great job in the camp kitchen even if it was her first time ever to go camping. After this trip she may go shoot some rapids, or take up sky diving as a relaxing hobby.



After a night of singing, praying, and dancing, the congregation is ready to wish us a fond farewell before starting on a mission trip of their own. The good-byes are the hardest part of the trip. Tears flow openly. Hugs and kisses were exchanged freely. Each time I say good-bye I see in their eyes the question, "will we ever see you again?" My answer is; "As far as it is within my power and God's will I will return and I will continue to bring others so that they too will experience God upon this mountain.

Please help me to keep my promise. Better still, come experience the mountain with me.

I want to introduce to you, GRAMMA. We are camped on her land. The land the church building sits upon was hers. That's her house in the background to your left. Directly behind her (out of sight) is her cornstalk kitchen. You really haven't had a cup of coffee until you sit in her kitchen while she makes you a cup from her homegrown beans, freshly roasted over an open fire. Most people claim they can levitate up the mountain after just one cup. Even though it's Saturday, she wore her Sunday best blue dress up to camp to wish us farewell. She is holding a bottle of lotion that Marilyn gave her.



Girls!

Didn't your mothers ever tell you not to wear your clothes in the bathtub?

Amanda and Emily are enjoying a quick splash in the cove at Jacmel before lunch. They were unaware at first that they were wading in someone's bathtub. No problem. They were welcome with or without clothes.

EVERY Farsight Mission trip has been a blessing. It seems that no matter how much we accomplish for the Lord and for the people that we go to help, we always receive more blessing than we are able to give. Farsight V was no exception. We got to see God's handiwork. We got to see a prayer answered instantly. We got to see insurmountable obstacles melt out of the way as we confronted them.

The adventure began Wednesday morning at the Community Christian Church men's prayer breakfast with Kent Mezger's prayer. A prayer that was echoed time and time again in the mountains of Haiti. His prayer was; "Lord, Satan is going to do everything in his power to stop this mission trip. Don't let anything he does work."

1. Satan's first attempt to sabotage the mission was to prevent Joe from making the trip. His travel agent had messed up the flights from N.Y. to Miami so that he had to fly standby on several planes just to get to Florida. Then, as mentioned earlier, American Airlines twice refused him flight with the group to Haiti. Satan's first defeat was when Joe decided to travel on faith and put his future in God's hands even if it meant getting stuck in Haiti. Satan would have lost big-time if Joe actually got stuck in Haiti because he is a tireless worker in God's kingdom.

2. Satan does some of his best work on machines, trucks in particular. Our transportation kept losing power steering fluid and air from the right front tire(RFT). Every corner was becoming more difficult and two men in the cab were straining to turn the wheel to navigate around the countless switchback curves. People along the road started pointing to our RFT. RoRo Eustache, our missionary, asked the driver if he had packed the tire pump. After a short silence we discovered that the pump was left in Port Au Prince. We kept going. The people kept pointing. The spare was checked and found to be flat (no surprise). A TapTap (truck taxi) was flagged down, he had no pump. We were five hours from help. As we came to a stop with a flat tire that would go no further RoRo voiced this prayer; "Oh God, we are in big trouble! WE NEED A TIRE PUMP!" That said, a boy on a bicycle rounded the curve up ahead with a BRIGHT RED TIRE PUMP lashed to his handlebars. He sold it to us. It worked. I count that as three miracles. We did not see another pump until we came down the mountain and stopped in a tire repair shop. Even then, our pump worked better than his.

3. Surveying the deepest canyon and after an hour's climb up wet, slippery rocks we encountered a witch doctor's animal sacrifice. The local men wanted to go no further. We did not want to try going back down the canyon. In rock climbing, going up is always easier. One of the men went up the rock wall, taking our rope with him. He made it to the top, tied the rope to a tree and we all went up the rope. The canyon went around one more bend and came to an end. We made our exit at the best place in the whole canyon. The sacrifice was old and not meant for us. Besides, as RoRo said, "Our God is Greater!"

4. I believe God's power on the mountain chased Satan off. We did not encounter him until we were half way down the mountain. He was still messing with the power steering, making every turn a chore. Something (God) told me to advise everyone in the truck on exit procedures should we have more than the usual difficulty making any of the treacherous curves. The instructions barely off my lips, the brakes failed. We were going very slowly so we weren't sure there was a problem until the men in the cab jumped out. I yelled JUMP! In one second everyone was standing behind the truck watching it roll toward the edge. Rolling onto the foot wide shoulder the truck stopped. I went around to the front and there in the grass was a rock stopping the RFT from going over the edge. RoRo and the driver were still in the truck. They had chosen a tree and were steering for it. Marilyn Athey, in the back seat, was wondering what all the excitement was all about. (Personally, I think the tire pump was the greater miracle. There are millions of rocks on the mountain to use as tire blocks. As for tire pumps, God delivered the only one.)

At this point Satan went into his "sore loser" mode. (Satan) A torrential rain storm, no windshield wipers. (God) Drew us closer together, gave us songs to sing. At the foot of the mountain, a warm breeze cleared the sky and we were surrounded by an explosion of stars above us and city lights below us. The next day after church we went to Wall's Guest House to buy souvenirs.

(Satan) There were no vendors.

(God) At the airport there were more vendors than I have every seen before and with only minutes to sell their wares most of their stuff was "almost free".

(God) No one questioned Joe's documents at the airport.

(God) American Airlines agent asked if we would like to board the plane first. He processed us ahead of the first class passengers.

(Satan) At the plane two souvenirs could not be carry-ons. Our heavy tote lockers have been broken by the baggage handlers. The wood carvings didn't have a chance.

(God) The pilot saw what happened and took the carvings into the cockpit with him. We didn't know this until we arrived in Miami and the pilot announced that the owners of the carvings could pick them up as they exited the plane.

(Satan) A flight attendant trips and dumps three plates of rice and several glasses of ice water in Amanda's lap.

(God) Laugh loudly, forgive promptly, and label the event the perfect end to a perfect trip.

Sometimes, God works in mysterious ways, but not this time. On this trip He was our constant companion. His presence was so strong, so clear that you could break into conversation with Him as you walked along a path and then listen to His response. You could reach up and take His hand to help you in a rock climb and feel His strength as you are lifted up.

Had I not been there I too might have some trouble believing all this, but I WAS THERE! I was one of seven on the team that witnessed all that happened. God is not some far-off spectator to the events within your life. There is more substance to His existence than there is to this paper you are holding and reading, even more than the ground you are standing on. If you don't feel His presence, look around and see if where you are is a place God can share with you. Talk to Him. Maybe all you need to do is invite Him in. Maybe you need to relocate your life.

Faith involves using the senses of your soul. With the eyes of your soul you can clearly see God and His handiwork. The fingers of your soul can search Him out and hold His hand. Your soul can talk to Him expressing feelings that you are unable to put into words, and your soul can hear His answer even if He is quieter than a gentle breeze. He makes spiritual life delicious!

If you want or need some help in finding God and having Him become an active part of your life, call or write me. I would be happy to answer any questions you have and also put you in touch with someone close to you who could help in answering questions.

If you or maybe your youth group or Bible School class would like to take part in a mission adventure, let me know and I will work with you and your group to organize a trip. Then, you too will see firsthand how great God is!

May God bless you, challenge you, and fill your life with excitement!

Levern Halstead

NEWSLETTER

Are you on my mailing list? If not, and you want to receive this newsletter, call, write or e-mail your address to me.

If you are getting this newsletter and don't want to receive it, let me know also.

email: HalsteadLL@AOL.COM - Phone: 954-236-8405 - See address below.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

After prayer and thoughtful consideration of the work that I am involved in, if you find it worthy of your support, please send your support to "Levern Halstead". Put Farsight Christian Mission on the memo line and mail it to:

Levern Halstead, 741 Willow Grove Terr., Davie, FL. 33325

I plan to have an organization with tax exempt status in place before the end of the year. Contributions now will be carried over to that organization so that you will get a receipt at year's end for all your contributions.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.

THE BOY ON THE COVER

I would like you to meet PEEWEE. Bob Keesee from Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia, MI., gave him the nickname last January. Now, even his parents call him by that name. I asked some of his buddies what his real name was and they gave me a look and responded PEEWEE. He and about 500 other kids are eagerly waiting for us to get their new school finished and operational.