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Farsight is dedicated to seeing a need and responding. Our goal is to give a "Hand Up" rather than just a "Hand Out"

Photo: Gramma, atop the mountain, praising God and thanking the team for coming to build the church and school building.

Farsight Team VI. Nine Kentucky Christian College students and Dennis Grinn from Community Christian Church in Ft. Lauderdale joined me on a Thanksgiving week trip to Seguin, Haiti. Pictured right, the group has just survived the drive up the face of "Dog Don't Find" mountain. Becky Starr, afraid of heights, found as long as she could keep her feet close to the ground she could survive and so she rode standing on the trailer hitch frame. The mountain got its name because the cliffs are so steep and the distance to the bottom so great, when someone falls off the mountain "even your dog will not be able to find you."



The old truck in the picture has probably made its last trip up the mountain. The 1985, Ford F350, diesel, 4x4 climbed the mountain, bursting a powersteering line in the process. Coming down the mountain the old truck scattered various parts from the front half of the 4x4 drive all over the road. We tossed the front drive shaft in the

truck and continued on our way. There was still something engaged and grinding so we stopped and removed the wheel locks from the front tires. This got us down the mountain to Jacmel and Tina Eisenhauer's house. She prepared a Thanksgiving dinner for us. She served lobster and rice, pumpkin pie and carrot cake. Thank You Tina!!

After a good night's sleep at Tina's we started the second leg of our homeward journey. An hour from Tina's the clutch line blew. This left us stranded along the road for half the day. Help was offered by good samaritans passing by and I finally accepted an offer to provide transportation for half the team. I sent three girls, three guys and some baggage ahead to Wall's Guest House. We then converted the auxillary fuel line into a clutch line and continued on. Having borrowed hose clamps from the fuel line to fix the clutch line the truck began sucking air instead of fuel and we were once again stalled along the road bleeding the air out of the fuel pump and improvising a clamp. In half an hour, we were going again. The final blow was when the engine caught on fire. God was watching over us. We stopped in front of a house where a man was doing dinner dishes. He grabbed the kitchen sink and drowned the fire. We then had to pick all his forks and spoons out of our engine compartment. The truck still ran but would not move. We needed a Taptap (truck taxi) and God sent an empty one, the only empty one we had seen all day, to take us and all our baggage to Port Au Prince.

God has such a wonderful way of revealing Himself. Each team member felt the trip would not have been complete had they not experienced God's overwhelming power melt away each and every obstacle.

At right, the team is "taking in stride" one of many breakdowns along the road home. By this time they were veterans of Satan's tactics in his many attempts to foil the trip. Satan could not pry loose a single "goat" from this team of shepherds. During the week Satan had used his entire battery of "F's" on the group. **F**ears were overcome, big and small. Some fears were unfounded and did not exist. **F**rustration brought about unity and solidarity within the group. There was no room for Satan to drive a wedge anywhere. **F**atigue made everyone mellow and giddy rather than irritable. On the home stretch in this picture no one was about to allow Satan to alter the **F**lavor of the trip by leaving a "bad taste" to dampen our spirits.



God won!

The next scheduled trip is in March and the Mission is in GREAT NEED of a newer, more reliable truck. The cost of renting a Taptap would pay for a truck in just 25 trips up the mountain and back. I will be praying for God to bless each of you who find it in your heart to help purchase a newer truck. If half of my mailing list responded with a sacrificial gift of \$250 we would have a truck ready to go in March. You just need to ask yourself and God, "which half am I?"



It is the children that really have an impact on the team members. They literally follow in your footsteps, mimic your every word, and eagerly seek an opportunity to play or work with you. Dennis Grinn quickly became the team's goodwill ambassador and head of public relations. I believe it was his goal to smile at and speak to every Haitian we encountered.

He also tossed candy to almost every child between Seguin and Jacmel. We made him stop when he tossed some to a child along the way, discovering too late the child was standing in a school yard. A whole classroom of kids tried to exit the school building and retrieve the candy.

There are hundreds of children in Seguin waiting for the school to be finished. Once finished, we need people to care enough about these children to help support them and the school program. It costs about \$20.00 a month per child to pay for teachers, materials, food, and clothing. If God has blessed you today perhaps you could help bless a child with hope for tomorrow. The \$240.00 per year cost is more money than most Haitian families see in a year. Keep in mind, each child we help is part of an extended family and God will open the door for His Word to touch the hearts of all of them.

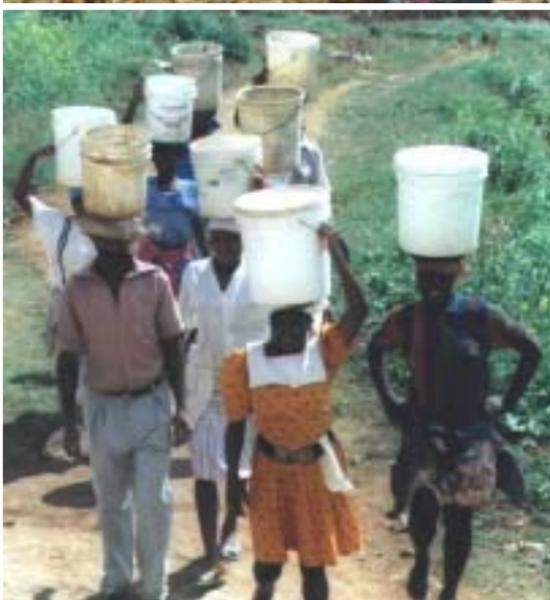
You might wonder what kind of lifestyle does \$200 a year buy for the typical Haitian family? First, remove all those things that we consider necessities and forget about anything considered a luxury. A big house would be about 12x18 and made

of block, stone, or corn stalks. The beds are woven mats rolled out on the earthen or concrete floor at night. For covers there might be a communal blanket but most likely it would be the clothes you are wearing. That's not much when the temperatures drop into the low 40s. The kitchen sits in the corner, a collection of pots. The charcoal stove is usually in a separate structure to avoid smoking up or burning down the house. The nearest drinking water supply is about an hour's walk away so your water is in a 5 gallon bucket in another corner. The toilet is outside somewhere, anywhere, just not on the footpath. Meals, served once or twice a day, consist of corn, beans, rice and vegetables in season, with meat added to the meal once a week or so.



The picture above depicts activities of a typical day. Laundry, bathing, washing carrots for market, and watering the family pig all take place in the same communal water hole. Work in Seguin is mostly farming. The kids are in the fields, hoeing, planting, or harvesting by 6:30 am. Taking produce to market means starting out about 3:00 am since it's a 5 hour walk with a load of 50 to 80 pounds of produce balanced on your head. Speaking of using your head. . .

Using your head takes on a whole new meaning in Haiti. Heads are not used just for thinking. They are the primary load-bearing device. Pouring concrete for the church/school takes a lot of water. Pictured below left, are nine people from the church returning with water from a source about a mile away.



Several of the buckets are 6 gallon buckets weighing a little over 50 pounds. The lady, right front, wanted to show how easy and fun water carrying can be. She marched in like a majorette without spilling a drop.

It takes a lot of water to maintain a team on the mountain for a week. After carrying our own water once, we became much more conservative and appreciative of the supply brought to our camp each day. Children would carry water in exchange for a couple Jolly rancher candies. When we began passing out socks for water we had women coming to camp asking to bring us water. The water looks great but we chlorinate and then filter all the water used at camp.

Jesse Tall, a KCC student, was the only team member that seemed to enjoy the water carrying experience. He said it was a little tough at first but once he found the balance and the stride, it was easy. He figures it was a talent he inherited from a distant relative.

The rest of us struggled with two people to a bucket. Carrying a bucket suspended on a stick between two guys wasn't too bad but we got a lot of laughs from the locals as they glided past us with their full buckets appearing to be light as feathers atop their heads.





Team VI was assigned the project of laying a concrete floor in the church building.

First, we had to negotiate with a man to purchase sand and gravel to make the concrete. The price was high but then we found out that there are no loaders. His dump truck had to be loaded by hand. Men with shovels dug the sand and filled the 5 yard dump truck. They did the same for the rock that came from the valley floor which meant the truck had to come up Dog Don't Find mountain fully loaded.

Next, we negotiated with a man for bags of concrete. We paid three times the U.S. price but the bags were already on top the mountain. That alone made it a good deal.

All the mixing was done on the ground with hoes and shovels. Men, women, and children came to help. Our Home Depot wheelbarrows were a little light for the job required of them. Besides being light they sold us the wrong handles so we had to improvise in order to use them at all.



Getting the wet concrete from the mixing area to the pouring area was a challenge that soon became a game. Each "run" required a three-man team as pictured left. At the top of the ramp the wheelbarrow was "launched" into the air and into the hands of two catchers who along with the handle-man carried the load to the pouring area. The cost of pouring a concrete floor on a remote island, 5,000 feet up the side of a mountain is about \$1.00 per square foot. There is still about 1,600 sq.ft. of floor to be poured by the group going in March. Would you like to buy a few square feet of floor for the church in Seguin? Or, buy the whole floor and I will etch your name in it.

To reduce cost, several local men have agreed to take sledge hammers and make gravel for the concrete by breaking up rocks off the mountain side. Also, they have promised to fill the remaining 1,600 sq. ft. of space with about a foot of rock fill to bring the floor up to grade and be ready for pouring. That is 60 cubic yards of rock. The picture, lower left shows the low area where we gleaned all the fill rock to bring the portion we poured up to grade.

If funds are available, another group from KCC will finish pouring the floor on their Spring Break March 14-22.

A group in May will work on window shutters, doors, and pew-desks for the church and school.

I am searching for a windmill electric generator and/or two 75-watt solar panels to provide some electricity to the building.

Then all we need are teachers, books and supplies, and sponsors that want to help a little child have a future.



There is nothing on earth quite as exhilarating as to STOP working in concrete after a long day of mixing and hauling, except maybe the sound of the camp cooks announcing that dinner is ready. There was no job tough enough to wipe the smiles off these faces.

Serving the Lord is just too much fun!!!



After 12 years of working in a nice office wearing a suit and tie, and one year of serving the Lord in one of the most remote island villages in the Caribbean, I will choose the Lord's work every time. There is a solid feeling of accomplishment at the end of each day. When I lay down to sleep at night, I picture the faces of hundreds of smiling children, and I fall asleep with the feeling that. . .

"Today I made a difference."



The work is far more than building churches, schools, bridges, roads, or reservoirs. Each of the team soon found themselves with an inseparable "little brother" or "little sister". This little brother, left, worked all day on the church building, carrying stone, and running the wheel barrow back for a refill of concrete.

Paul Halstead, the big brother, is a student at KCC, part-time youth minister at English Christian Church in Carrollton, KY., and one of the directors of Farsight Christian Mission. He recruited Team VI and assisted in leading them on this eight-day work project. Paul is also part of the NCCAA Div. II National Champion KCC Knights basketball program.

I believe every child on the mountain knows Paul. Every kid I met on an earlier trip asked for Paul, then they asked about Bob, Cindy, Amanda, Joe, Emily, Chad, Steve, Renee, and the list went on and on until everyone who had ever been on one of the mission trips was named.

Paul has already begun the process of recruiting team VII for the March trip to finish the floor. There are openings on the roster in May. Are you up to the adventure? Are you strong enough to face Satan up close and defeat him in hand-to-hand combat? If your whole sense of priorities and necessities was turned upside-down and the walls around your comfort zone were torn down, could you live with your new self? You cannot live a week atop the mountain and not be changed by it.



If you need a bucket of water, a field hoed, a load of rock carried, boards stacked, nails pounded, an errand run, anything, one of these boys would gladly do it for you. If you needed a shirt they would give you the one they are wearing, the only one they have. These young men, age 8-11 have put in as many hours of hard physical labor into building the church and school as any of the men.

Maxo, far left, can drive a #16 nail with three swings. He learned how to hammer last March when we were building trusses. I can do it in five, if I don't miss or bend the nail.

When I look at these boys I see the future of Haiti. I see the future of Christ's church in Seguin.

All they need is an opportunity. All they need are little luxuries like, going to school, good drinking water, good food on a regular schedule, a warm shirt for the cold nights, a pair of shoes close to the right size. If you have any luxuries you could postpone for a while and help provide a few luxuries for these boys, just give me a call or write.

1997 Accomplishments:

Mission trips in January, March, August, and two in November. A total of 43 team members made the trip to Seguin, Haiti in 1997. Four College students have made college and/or course changes to begin equipping themselves for Fulltime mission work.

Farsight Christian Mission, Inc. became a reality. Community Christian Church, Attorney Robert Sader, and CPA Joseph Mott assisted in the incorporation process and it became official on November 13, 1997.

The January mission team built a 32x75 church/school/medical/community building out of stone and block. In March we built trusses and began putting tin on the roof. The tin roof was finished in August and a preliminary survey of two canyons was done to explore the possibility of building several reservoirs. There were also 22 baptisms at the end of our week in August. One November trip was to build cabins for future teams to live in. These cabins were finished and utilized by the second November group. This second group poured a third of the floor. Some accomplishments are harder to measure and describe. They are the relationships built between Americans and Haitians, fellow Christians where the common language is love and respect, and the love that grows within the team for God and fellow team members.

1998 Goals:

March: Finish the floor.

May: Build Shutters, doors, pews, desks

Three to five more teams for trips in summer and fall.

Windmill electric and/or solar electric for the church

Drill a well in front of the church

Replace the foot bridge over the ravine before it collapses

Began evangelism/education ministry in Seguin

Start on church/school #2

Learn French/Creole language

Mission Needs:

1. Financial support for projects and the mission general fund so we can buy the following:
2. A newer truck for group trips
3. Shovels, wheelbarrows, a post hole digger
4. Solar panels, electric generator, concrete working tools
5. Financial support for the kid's School program
6. 4-wheel ATV
7. Bulldozer

(I would gladly accept these items as donations also.)



I need your help. Please consider one or more of the following:

One time Monthly support for: *(I will gladly supply envelopes for monthly supporters.)*

General mission fund Newer truck fund Current project fund

Support a child in school Medical clinic and adult education support

Send your gift to Farsight Christian Mission, Inc. All gifts are tax-deductable.

With the Lord's help I have made it through year one. I have not had much time to do fund raising. I would rather not take time away from the work if I can persuade you that the work being done is worthy of your support. Please help me make a difference. The joy your gift brings will be exceeded only by the joy you will receive from giving it.

Thanks for taking the time to read all this. I pray God will bless you.

Levern Halstead