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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"

December, 1998 - #8

The "Ambassador of Hugs", January, 1999
 Dennis Grinn. Reach out and the love you give will come back to you a thousandfold.

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Three teams made the trip up the mountain in November and December. The first team was made up of volunteers from Forefront Christian Church in Virginia Beach, VA; Cleveland Christian in Cleveland, TN; Central Christian in Central City, KY; Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia, MI; and Community Christian in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The second and third teams were mostly Kentucky Christian College students along with Becky Starr, Sheryl Tullis, Bob Keese, Tara Clark from Post Road Christian Church in Indiana, my daughter Amanda and myself. There was a lot to be done in the wake of hurricane Georges.

The first week was a medical clinic/bridge repair week. The team saw and treated about 1000 people in need of medical attention and then secured the bridge so that it is once again safe to cross. Unfortunately, we also had to turn away about 500 people from the clinic when we ran out of medicine. One more proof that they really do need an affordable clinic on the mountain.

The second team built 10 more desk/pews for the school, passed out clothes, shoes, and food. Normally, we would not be involved in "hand-out" programs but in the wake of the hurricane it kept our brothers and sisters alive until they could plant and harvest again. They also built a rainwater catch system that is performing beyond anything we had imagined. (Pictures and article later in this newsletter).

Three short weeks after the back-to-back trips in November, nine young people gave their Christmas break from college and school to go spend another week on the mountain. Some came to Florida a week early, others flew in on Christmas day. One came by bus and one drove solo all the way to Ft. Lauderdale.

Team three had many projects on its agenda but the main message to our church family in Seguin was that we wanted to share Christmas with them. The church family of about 250 had a lot to celebrate. It was Jesus' birthday, they had survived hurricane George, there was once again produce in the gardens to eat, and classes in the Christian school would begin January 4, 1999 with thirty+ students. To celebrate, we cooked up huge pots of rice & beans. They brought cabbage, carrots, and onions so we served salad. We made a big pot of chicken gravy with lots of meat in it to put on top the rice and beans. Everyone ate until they could eat no more. One little orphan boy came back six times. For dessert, we brought out cookies and candy. The party continued on into the night. A four piece band had been invited to come and perform for us. The church choir sang to us. Finally, the drum beat and the music brought everyone to their feet as they praised God with their whole being to thank Him for a year of blessings.





Kevin, from Virginia Beach, is enjoying the company of one of his admirers. They are speaking the international language. When it came to communication, Kevin was phenomenal. By midday of the medical clinic, he was communicating in Creole with the patients and recording their symptoms and needs for our medical team. Aimee Blair, a KCC student and part of week #2, was another "natural" with the children. She is now planning to go back to Haiti for the summer, learning the language and working as a missionary. It's young people like these that can change the world. They have already made a difference in the lives of these children in Haiti.



If you would like to help sponsor Aimee, contact me at the address or number on this newsletter.

Thomas Saintus is our teacher for the school that started January 5, 1999. He will be teaching the 4 R's, reading, writing, arithmetic, religion, along with French, Creole, and English. He is joined by Connie Coblentz and Janet Stobaugh, Cindy's



(my wife) sister and mother along with "Gramma". Connie and Thomas spent a day going over all the school supplies that we had brought him. Jan busied herself with the camp kitchen and teaching crochet to a group of local ladies. Gramma sent or brought to the camp and continuous flow of her coffee. Coffee made from her homegrown beans. Picked, roasted, and ground in her kitchen. Her coffee is strong enough and sweet enough that one spoonful fulfills your daily requirements for both caffeine and carbohydrates. She donated the land for the church and now her sons have donated "as much land as is needed for the medical clinic or whatever is needed". In exchange for the land, they asked only that we help them purchase a proper tombstone for Gramma's grave. She is soon to be 84.



Marion Mann exemplified the title of Nurse. When a female patient needed a full-body treatment, she pulled on the gloves and sometimes a mask and met the challenge without ever once losing her smile. Phyllis Rhoades painted chalkboards for the school one day. She proved to be another one of those people that picks up a foreign language easily and did a great job assisting in the med-clinic. Her husband, Damon, rediscovered his talent in welding and worked with Sharon Cropp to build the bridge supports.

Plan A for the bridge crew, Charles, Mark, Bob, Kevin, Rusty and Damon, was to pull the bridge off the ravine to fix it. After considering the weight of the bridge against our own combined weight we moved on to plan B and finally C to fix the bridge without moving it. Sharon and Damon constructed a pair of what they referred to as "dozer ramps". Eventually, we will build eight more "dozer ramps" and then tie them together with new fifty-foot side trusses and have a new bridge to replace the current one. For now, everyone is happy to have the reinforcements in place and the side rails back up.





At left, Bob Keese is making balloon hats and entertaining the crowd while, pictured at right, “Doc”, Charles Coblentz, applies a dose of anti-fungal spray to a child's head. These two men, along with every other member of the Farsight teams, have truly **PUT ON CHRIST**, and followed in His footsteps. It's not the white skin that makes the team members stand out, it's God's light that shines from within the soul that makes each member a lighthouse on the mountain. Knowing that we are limited in what we can do makes what is accomplished with God working in us and through us even more awesome.



Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

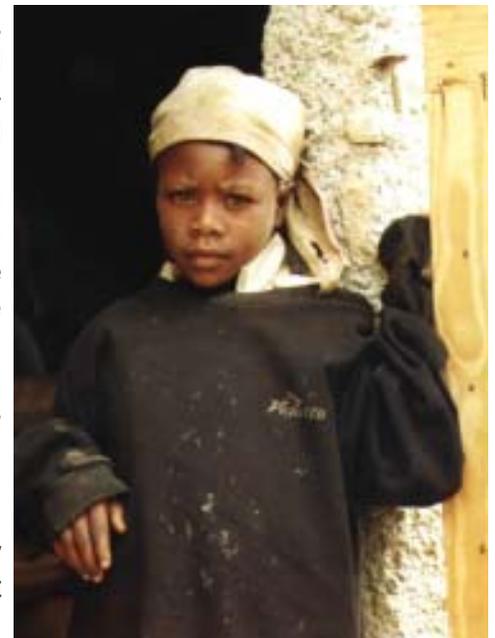
Luke 18: 16-17

Here stands the future of Seguin and perhaps the future of Haiti. These are the kids that I sometimes call “my army of ants”. When we needed 3,000 pounds of steel hauled to the bridge they were our tireless carriers, sometimes it would take six of them to lift one piece, then off they would go. You never have to walk empty-handed either, one or two kids will gladly hold your hand and walk anywhere with you. They are so much more than just a bunch of kids. They are thirty individuals with names and histories. Some have families, some are orphans taken in by another family. They are always ready to play, work, learn, or eat.

This picture is worth a thousand words. I wish you could look into this little girl's eyes and see what I saw as I focused the camera for this photo. I saw Haiti. A land of great beauty and beautiful people. A people searching for something or someone they can put their hope in. I saw strength that copes with hunger and pain and disappointment. I saw a great untapped potential. Then I saw a little girl again. One who already works harder every day than most adults in America. A little girl that would love to play with a doll, go to school, have a pair of shoes. A little girl that has never wondered, “what will I wear today”, because she will wear the same clothes she wears every day. She has never imagined calling a friend on the phone or what ice cream tastes like.

As I look into her eyes I know that she is the reason, along with a thousand others just like her, that keeps me doing what I am doing.

Dear Father,
Empty me of myself and fill me with You so that I will have the strength and ability to do what you want me to and so that those who look on me will not see me but You.



Week Three: The generator finally ran out of gas, signaling bed-time. We had about a hundred houseguests stay the night. The next morning at daylight we were awakened by preaching. Felix could not pass up an audience.

After the big party and the sunrise preaching it was now time for shoes. We had 160 pair of shoes. One by one we matched them up with shoes until the shoes were gone. We could have used more size 10 - 12 wide shoes and even a few 13's for the adult men and women and sizes 6-10 for the children.

The next day we passed out clothes. Everyone got at least one piece of clothing. Then, we pulled out two tote lockers full of TOYS and gave out 300-400 toys. Each child got two and then we pushed them out the door. When all the kids were outside, we let the adults come back and sort through the remaining clothes until it was all gone.



Crowds gather around the church building almost every day as the Church becomes more and more the center of good things happening on the mountain. On the hill, out of the picture to the left, we staked out the four corners of where the clinic is to be. Felix and Christnet walked the boundaries with me. I pointed to spots on the ground and said, "hospital, clinic, training center, doctor's house, kitchen" then Felix said, "maternity?" I walked him down an invisible hall and into the maternity area.



Our kids try out the new desks where school will start on Monday.

These students are smiling because they are on a break from school. The next kids to fill these desks will be smiling because they are in school. Two years ago this was one of the impossible dreams for the families on the mountain. While we sometimes see dreams as impossible, God sees them as blueprints. The recipe for turning a dream into reality is: Faith - an amount equal to one mustard seed, Prayer - just enough to put calluses on your knees, Positive attitude - God can do anything, Hard work - enough to get the job done.



God Provides! The truck that brought us up the mountain broke down and could not make the return trip. RoRo and Tboss bought this truck just in time to pick us up for the trip home. It took a little negotiating and prayer to get the seller's price down to match the money I had brought for the purpose of buying a truck.

Tboss wants to name the truck "King of Kings". I like the name although at first I was thinking of naming it "My retirement".

What a pleasant surprise! I had told RoRo and Tboss to begin searching for a truck that Farsight could buy. We had talked about several. Our only problem was the difference between what the mission could afford and what the sellers wanted for their trucks.

I had taken with me all the money I could find and left it with RoRo for safe keeping while I spent the week in Seguin. On the way up the mountain, Tboss showed me this truck. It was one that was for sale. He, RoRo, and a mechanic had examined it and he had test drove it. According to Tboss, "This is a good truck."

While I was hoping to negotiate a little longer and haggle a better price, God sent a VERY CLEAR message.

"Buy the truck and get to work!"

This was the only truck available to pick us up and bring us home. God had orchestrated quite a sequence of events to put this new tool into our hands. It is now making weekly trips to Seguin to bring the produce to market and deliver goods to the village. When we can afford it, the truck will be made into an open top supplies/people hauler.



I spent one afternoon meeting with the men and reviewing all that had been done this past year. We discussed the greatest needs of the church and the village. They explained that the hurricane had washed out and broken the water pipe that brought water to the village. Good water was now farther away. They were impressed with the rainwater capture system we had put in the church and wanted me to teach them how to put more of those systems on the mountain. What developed was a plan to start a cottage industry

of installing rainwater catch systems. The men would first learn how by installing one on their home and then they would purchase a system and install it on someone else's house.



The rainwater capture system. God demonstrated how well it works the day we arrived. We were worried it might rain during our trip up the mountain which would have made it difficult if not impossible to get to the village. The rain waited until we arrived. After we had moved all our supplies into the church building, it started raining. We could hear the water running into the barrel. It sounded as though God had turned on a spigot. In twenty minutes the barrel was full and it stopped raining.

The system worked so well that several of the families had been able to come to the church and get water regularly, saving themselves a three-hour roundtrip walk to the next source of water.

There are two filters in the system. One in the top and another at the tap. The first filter was doing such a good job that there was no sign of dirt collecting in the second filter.

We experimented with other filters and pumps and were able to set up a system to push water through a 0.5 micron filter which took out even the chlorine we had added for purification purposes. WOW! Rainwater soft, crystal clear and 99.99% pure. Thank you Lord for the idea, the materials, the people who built it, and for the rain.

On Thursday, God really put on a show. It started raining HARD! The water was collecting in the drum faster than we could drain it out into buckets. In two hours we collected two hundred gallons of water.

If anyone is interested in providing water to a family, the whole system costs about a hundred dollars.



THE BOTTOM LINE..

Hi Gang,

Are you making your plans for summer camp? I am in the process of contacting several camps where I hope to be the mission speaker and once again represent Farsight Christian Mission. If you would like me back this summer, speak to your youth minister or camp director and let them know.

It has been a busy year, juggling college, basketball, and mission trips to Haiti. I am looking forward to representing God and Kentucky Christian College again at the NCCAA Basketball Championships in Oklahoma City, OK. One week after the finals, I get to lead fourteen of my classmates on a mission trip to Haiti. This has become, to me, what serving my Lord is all about. My hope and prayer is that I can raise enough support through speaking at camps and churches this summer so that I can go to Haiti in August and spend five months there. So much is happening and the work is growing so fast that it really needs someone to manage the projects onsite. I also need to learn the language.

I have seen what an army of young people can do. In Seguin, Haiti they helped to move 2500 cement blocks, tons of gravel, sand, and cement to build a church and school. I have seen up to six little kids all in a row carrying 20 feet of steel to build a bridge. Last month a bunch of boys helped me move a mountain of rocks to build a small dam.

Through this I have learned that anything is possible with the Lord.

Here is my question to you. Is it possible for all of you to join together as my army of young people and provide the support I will need to put me on the mission field? I know there is support out there from churches, adults, mission committees, and other organizations to support me but I want to give you, my camp family, the first opportunity to make a commitment of support. That would make you a part of the Farsight Team. If you are not already tithing (giving 10% to the Lord), think about saving out that 10% of your summer income, send it to Farsight Christian Mission and mark it, Paul's mission support.

I also want to send out a special thank you to my camp family already supporting the mission. I have been touched by the sacrifices some of you have made.

Hope to see you again this summer. Paul Halstead

1998 in review

What a year it has been!

- * 8 Teams totalling 100+ volunteers.
- * Almost 10,000 man-hours of work on mission projects.
- * Our church family meeting almost daily in the new facility.
- * 28 souls added to the Lord's family in August.
- * 14 church pews/ student desks constructed.
- * A new bridge built and then repaired after hurricane Georges.
- * Medical treatment of 2,000+ patients during t h r e e clinics.
- * Emergency food program for 200 families
- * 30 students selected and school started.
- * Sponsors secured for almost all the school children.
- * 200 pairs of shoes and 1000+ pieces of clothing distributed.
- * Rainwater capture system installed in the church building.
- * Experimental trees and plants growing well.
- * Area Co-Op setup.
- * Land for a hospital/clinic/mission center marked for excavation to begin.
- * Truck purchased.

I thank God every day for this new life and work He has given me.

I thank God and pray for a blessing for each of you every time I go the the mailbox and find your support for the work there waiting for me.

I thank God for my family. Cindy, who has gone into fulltime employment to support our home so that I can devote all my time to this work. Seth & Karen, my son and daughter-in-law, college students with work and lives of their own but there to publish a thousand newsletters whenever I need them. Paul, a Bible College student and basketball player, looking at postponing his last year of college and cancelling his last year of basketball because the work needs his help now. And last but not least, Amanda, my 15 year old daughter, always ready on a moments notice to go where most teenage girls could not imagine going, and loving it. She can cook a meal for 15-20 over an open fire, clean up afterwards, then carry blocks, shovel dirt, or dispense meds.

I don't know what I would do without them. I guess that's why God put us together.

1999 God given dreams - complete with blueprints

I anticipate this coming year to be AWESOME! God continues to open doors and light the road ahead. It has taken me almost two years to give up doubting and worrying. I have always liked to think that I was in control. After two years of seeing and experiencing how everything works perfectly when God is in control I find a tremendous peace of mind by living each day founded on my faith in God.

1999 Goals:

- Secure funding for the hospital/clinic.
- Begin construction of the hospital/clinic. (The pictures below are plans B for what it may look like.)
- Finish interior/exterior of church building.
- Build steps for church entrances
- Install 20-40 rainwater capture systems
- Develop seed co-op for farmers.
- Select and secure sponsors for 30 more school children.
- Take some time off from the work and promote Farsight Christian Mission to churches interested in supporting this work.
- Establish website: WWW.Farsight.CC. Logon and watch the Lord's work grow.

