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Thank you Novesta Church of Christ VBS for the windmill electric generator!

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BANG!

What a way to start the new Millenium! 2001 is set to be the best year yet! I want to look back to see where we've been, but the voice of my track coach still rings in my head: ***"Never look back, everything you need to see is ahead of you. Focus on the goal in front of you. If you are doing your best, there is nothing behind you that will make you run faster. It's up to you to do your best. Its up to you to focus on the goal ahead. If you do that, then you have already won your race."*** I find it amazing that 30 years later I can still hear that voice and more amazing that the advice is more important now, when applied to life and Kingdom work, than it was that spring day at a high school track meet. I know that the idea my track coach was implanting in my head was not his. Luke recorded Jesus' words in Luke 9:62, ***"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*** As I read this passage I can hear the urgency in Jesus' voice. He, better than I or any of us, could see how much work lay ahead. He understood the need to wisely use every minute of life His Father grants us here on Earth. Without trying to be a prophet and without trying to read all the signs, although there are many, I truly believe that we have just entered Earth's last millenium. But, I now realize that the life expectancy of Earth is unimportant. What is important is what I (we) accomplish TODAY. Will you do something for me today? Will you pray for me, my family, and this work for which God has chosen us to be a part?

I am awed, humbled, and filled with a feeling of inadequacy as I look at the work before us. Beyond any doubt, the accomplishments, the changed lives and saved souls are entirely the work of God. This thought brings me back to the verse about the plow. One lesson to learn is that while you and I may be helping to guide the plow, **WE ARE NOT THE POWER** that plows the field -- God is.

OK, I am all done preaching now. Let me tell you about our last trip, the people that went and the work accomplished. Then let me tell you about the plans for the future, some of the open doors we have encountered, our prayer needs and our physical needs.

The roadwork, pictured below, is exciting. The old road followed the angle of the hillside before the bulldozer cut it down and widened it. My protractor measured the reduction in the slope at 25 degrees. The old one-lane road is now wide enough for big trucks to pass on the curve. Haitian drivers would consider this to be a four-lane highway. In the week we were there, the excavators had worked their way through five of the thirty switchback corners leading to the top of the mountain. This is part of the last fifteen miles to Seguin; the part that used to take three hours or half of our total travel time to the village.





Pictured above is another huge encouragement. The big rock in the lower right corner of the picture is painted red and blue and has distances and directions written on it. It marks the intersection where the left fork goes to Seguin and the right fork goes to Belle Anse and then on to the Dominican Republic. The sign is announcing the road work being done, and indicates that within FIVE MONTHS this project is supposed to be completed. At this intersection we are only three miles from Seguin and this road is planned to connect with the road that was cut over the mountains that I reported on earlier. If the quality of the work continues all the way to Seguin, the three-hour 4X4 experience will become a nice thirty minute drive.



“Consider it pure joy when you encounter various trials..” Sherry Wages and Amanda Vaughn are proof that any job can be fun, it’s just a matter of attitude. The goal was to scrub every one of the 2000+ tiles back to its original color. They made the work look so fun I was tempted to grab a scrubber and get down there with them, but I resisted the temptation, not wanting to steal any of their joy. Amanda is from Kernersville, NC and has become one of Farsight’s regulars. This is her third (but not her last) trip up the mountain. Last summer she carried concrete roof beams. She seems to join the challenging weeks. I guess the greater the challenge, the greater the joy.

Note of interest: If you are passing through North Carolina and see a Bojangles restaurant you should stop. The chicken & biscuits are great and Amanda’s family owns the business.

This is Sherry’s first time up the mountain but I expect to see her again and again in the future. She possesses an indomitable spirit, eyes that flash with energy and excitement and a heart of gold. Farmers, Kentucky is her hometown so we all enjoyed her sweet southern accent.

Brenda Boothe, pictured left, joined the team as part of the group from Community Christian Church in Plantation, FL. (my home church). We hit it off right from the start. She is a computer networking instructor, the same line of work that I escaped from to be a missionary. She proved that anyone who can manage a computer network can do just about anything. She spent the week working side by side with “Dr.” Teresa in the medical clinic. 400 patients later she had conquered triage, pharmacy, and the complicated Haitian money system. Like the rest of us, she also let the children steal her heart, but God replaced it with an even bigger one.

Pictured in the background is our pharmacy, with the mural painted by Sherry Oster last summer and all of our storage containers. Speaking of containers, we need to get many more of these or similar storage containers. We have to contend with visits from various rodents passing through and checking out the flavor of our stuff if it gets left out. If you would like a low-cost project that would be a tremendous help, \$9.00 will buy one of these two-drawer containers to protect our medicines and supplies.

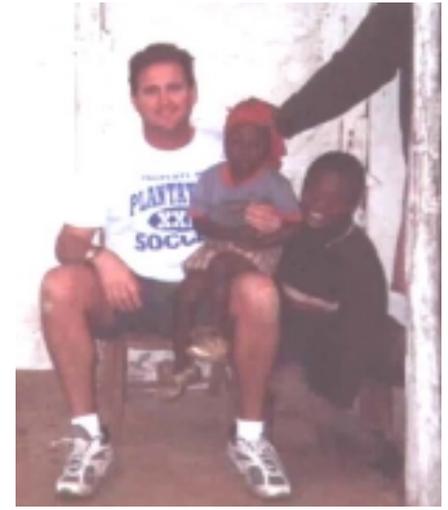


What \$5.00 would buy for the medical clinic.

- 20 tubes of triple antibiotic ointment
- or 25 tubes of anti-fungal creme
- or 12 bottles of tylenol (100 pills each)
- or 6 bottles of vitamins (100+ pills each)
- or parasite medicine for two children

Guess what \$25.00 would buy.

Tim Gray, right, and Don Hando, far right, were fantastic additions to the team. Both are from Community Christian in Plantation, FL. Tim is our youth minister and was scouting out the work in preparation for returning in August with a select group of high school students. Someone should warn Heather, his wife, that Tim has decided he wants lots of children all about the same age, but maybe she already knows that since they are expecting their second child very soon.



Don and his family have been interested and involved in the work, supporting two students in the school and the mission in general. His curiosity finally got the best of him and he had to see the work first hand. The kids found Don to be a softy with a huge heart. In the picture above right, Benitho took Don home with him to meet his family. Don probably never dreamed he would be sitting on the front porch of a humble stone hut holding a beautiful little Haitian girl on his lap. I would guess that the memories he took home have been replayed through his mind countless times since.

Since none of us had experience in alternate energy sources we did have to “read the instruction manuals” to install the windmill generator, wire 12-volt batteries into a 24-volt configuration and finally connect the generator, batteries, windmill, inverter and circuit panel all in the proper sequence to create the electrical system for the clinic. It works great! Two hours of running the generator charges the system for a full day of operation. That means lights for devotions and journaling without the generator drowning out the conversation.

2001 Teams - Still room for you!

- Feb. 28-Mar 3** Farsight to Mexico to meet with 9 churches (4)
- Mar. 9-17** St. Louis Univ.-Florida Christian College-Kentucky Christian College (20)
- Mar.16-24** Johnson Bible College + (7)
- Mar.23-31** Port St. Johns Christian Church, FL (13)
- Mar.30-Apr 7** Forefront Christian Church, VA (8)
- May 11-Jun 9** Interns month A (7) (small teams welcome to join them for 1-2 weeks)
- Jun 25-Jul 14** Interns month B (?) (come and work for 1 to 3 weeks)
- Aug.4-11** Volunteer week (12)
- Aug.11-18** Community Christian Church Youth (14)
- Nov.2-10** Forefront (?)

This list of dates grows weekly.

Paul will be representing FCM at camp:
 Michiani Christian June 10-22 (2 weeks), July 22-27
 Gold Coast Christian July 15-20, July 29-Aug. 3
 Paul and I are available to present the work of Farsight Christian Mission to your church, group, or committee on any date NOT listed above. We would love to share with you what God has done, is doing, and plans to do in the future. Call me at 1-800-450-1434 and we can find a date compatible with both our schedules.

Farsight's Future?

I am not a prophet so I can only describe what I see through the open doors and windows. God sent Farsight a number of Spanish speaking people with a great desire to serve Him. He then reopened a door into Mexico. We also got word from people in Panama where Farsight began in 1992. There are new opportunities there. While not losing our focus or energy for the work in Haiti we feel it is important to investigate these opportunities.

Countries where other open doors appear to have opened are: Guyana, St. Lucia, Montserrat, Jamaica, Turks & Caicos and others. These are all countries where English is spoken.

Do you have a burning desire to be a Christian Missionary? Single or married, one, two, or a family, I may be able to match you to a country and a group of people who need someone to come and **live the Gospel** in their presence, listen to them, work with them, and teach them the love and grace God has to offer through His Son. FCM would work with you and the local people to develop and implement a plan to begin an effective work. Since it is Farsight's goal to give a hand-up; to help a people become an established church with the ability to lead themselves and their people as quickly and effectively as possible. We are not looking for lifetime commitments. A commitment of one to three years may achieve the set goals for that country.



Hi! My name is Teresa Murphy. I would like to introduce myself to everyone because I will soon be joining Farsight full time as health provider in Seguin. I am a Physician Assistant currently working in internal medicine in Miami. I received the call to be a missionary when I was fifteen years old, and have been waiting on God's timing and specific direction ever since. I feel that now the time is right and Seguin is the place. I have been to Seguin twice to help with short term medical clinics, and I have seen the people there dying of easily treatable and preventable illnesses. They are desperate for daily medical care. Although I feel inadequate for the task, I would like to try to meet this need. I am excited to be a part of what God is doing in Haiti. September 1st, I will begin language school in Haiti, and by January of 2002 I hope to be living and working at the clinic in Seguin. Please pray that God would equip Farsight for the tasks ahead, and that God would continue His work in Haiti.

Teresa Murphy

I wanted you to hear this great news from Teresa first. This is something I have been praying would happen for the past three years, since the first time I saw her working in the clinic in Seguin.

On the night of January 24, 2001, I was struggling under the weight and responsibility of the mission work. I was personally considering whether I could continue, whether I was qualified to lead this work. It is tragically amazing, the thoughts and feelings that Satan can conjure up. At that moment the phone rang, it was Teresa, asking if it was ok to come over and present a proposal to me. **God is victoriously amazing!** The clouds of discouragement, doubt and inadequacy were replaced with new hope, energy, faith, commitment and focus on the goals ahead.

That night she made a three-year commitment to Farsight. Her plan, with which I agree completely, is to learn the language, provide a full time medical professional at the clinic, to teach preventive medicine, and to train some of our best young people from the church/school in Seguin to assist in the clinic so that eventually they will be able to supply the community with some of its medical needs. True to Farsight's guidelines, she recognizes the importance of saving souls as the ultimate goal while ministering to the physical needs of the people.

Now, Farsight and I need to make a commitment to her. As a recent college graduate she has student loans that need to be repaid, along with other expenses related to her profession and ongoing education, travel expenses, and the basic day to day cost of living in a foreign country. I am praying that this letter reaches the right person, people, mission committee or organization that have been waiting for this opportunity to step up and make a difference in Haiti. Teresa needs you. I need you. The families in Seguin need you. God needs you. **Literally, lives and souls hang in the balance.**

I am praying for 50 people to step up and stand beside Teresa in this three-year commitment. If 50 people pledge just 2% of their net monthly income, that's just \$2 out of every \$100 after taxes, then Teresa would have the support she needs. Please call me and tell me that you want to be a part of the 50+1 medical program. 1-800-450-1434 or email me at: farsightmission@aol.com. These 50 would be more than financial support, she will need prayer and moral support as well. Teresa will be helping in more areas than just Haiti. In February she will be traveling with an evaluation team to Merida, Mexico. Farsight went to Mexico in 1994 and worked for a week with Craig Gates, the missionary in Merida, to help in the construction of a Christian Youth Camp. We are now going back to that same site to discuss with nine local congregations whether we could establish a Missionary Bootcamp on the property. We bounced the idea around at the National Missionary Convention and found people interested in the camp, if we developed it. Teresa is fluent in Spanish and experienced in Latin American Culture through several mission trips to Guatemala. She brings a treasure of diverse talents and gifts into this work.



Kelly Bontrager, right, is a veteran of many trips up the mountain. In May she will come to live with us and work all summer in the Farsight office as a mission intern. In anticipation of her arrival I have been working on her job description. In the beginning I wanted her to work with the school program to establish communication between sponsors and students and to find sponsors for all of the unsponsored children. As time passed, I found more and more important projects I felt she would enjoy and I certainly did not want her to get bored. Recently, I did a time analysis on the work detailed in her job description and it looks like she will not get bored. She will have about 48 hours of work each day for the three months she will be here. When she graduates in December she plans to return and work full time in the mission office, if she survives the summer and can tolerate her boss. I'm saving some of the really big projects for her return so that I do not scare her away. I am encouraged by the fact that considering all the experiences we have shared, nothing has scared her yet.

I have made a conscious effort to spend 100% of all mission support on the mission work. It has been and is very important to me that the mission get a good start and remain strong, efficient and effective. The mission's explosive growth, open doors, and opportunities, some of which you will read about on the following pages, has coincided with Kelly's interest and offer to work for and with Farsight. Kelly submitted a beautiful testimonial letter that you definitely should read.



Kelly's letter. . .

My name is Kelly Bontrager. I am originally from Goshen, IN but am currently living in Grayson, KY where I am pursuing a degree in Business Administration at Kentucky Christian College. A few years ago I decided to dedicate my life to Full-time Christian Service. I went forward at church camp and made it a public declaration. This decision was followed by another decision to attend Kentucky Christian College and pursue a degree in Business Administration so I could eventually become a Camp Director. I have spent the last four summers working at Michiana Christian Service Camp in Niles, MI and loved every minute of it I spent the most incredible weeks of my life at MCSC and just knew that I would spend the rest of my life there! Once I arrived at KCC, I decided to go on a mission trip to Haiti with Farsight. It was after that first trip that I knew that what I had planned on and what God had planned for me were not the same. I knew I was supposed to be at KCC and I knew that I was even supposed to be studying Business, but the end result would be a little different from what I first had expected. Missions became my passion. I began to search for the ways that I could use my business degree in the mission field. Farsight seemed the perfect place to do that. I have been to Haiti four times now and continue to fall more in love with it and more in love with God every time that I go. I continue to learn more about God's character and what it means to rely on Him and only Him with every trip I take.

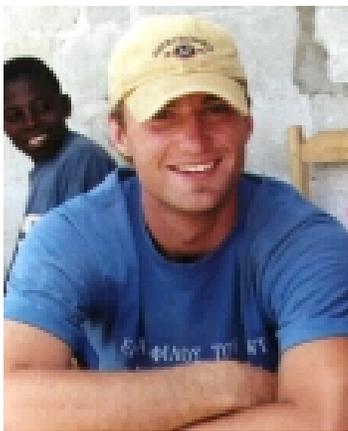
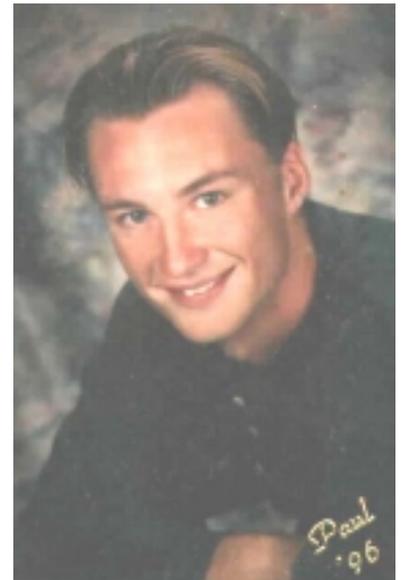
In just four years God has done unbelievable things in Haiti through Farsight. He has some incredible plans and opportunities for us to discover and I cannot wait to see them unfold. I cannot fathom what God will do, but I am ready to see Him do it! I am praying that by reading this, your heart is opened up to every opportunity you are faced with and that you are willing to change your plans to match His plans that He has for you. I will be the first to admit that it is not an easy thing to do but I can also admit that it is the best thing that one can do. Christ gave His life for me, and although it is not much, my life is all I have to give back to Him. I have been blessed in immeasurable ways for no reason. God has showered blessings upon me just because He loves me and I am not worthy of that. None of us are. But we are called to serve Him and to share that love with others. It is my prayer that I will be able to do that by working with Farsight Christian Mission.

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24.

*His and therefore yours,
Kelly Bontrager*

Kelly and everyone at Farsight are doing a lot of praying concerning how we are going to finance a paid staff position. One look at my "one man" office would convince you that she is long overdue. Many of you who are reading this have supported Kelly in the past for one or more of her four mission trips. You are part of the team, more than that, you are the foundation upon which Kelly stands. If it is at all possible, Kelly and I ask you to consider being her "life-support system". I hope and pray that **ALL** who are reading this will prayerfully consider supporting Kelly in her step of faith into full time mission work.

Paul Halstead is scheduled to graduate from Kentucky Christian College on May 4, 2001. That's two kids through college and one to go. Paul has been very involved with all aspects of FCM over the past four years. Last June, Farsight hired him to be team recruiter and representative. That helps to explain the explosive growth the program has experienced and the record number of volunteer short-term missionaries we have scheduled for 2001. After graduation he will be either in Haiti or church camp or speaking on college campuses and in churches. He actually has a room at home but whenever he comes home he usually brings a team with him and has to give up his room for others who need a place to sleep. This summer he and I will be pushing the teams hard to get the six-room school building finished and to get the clinic ready for Teresa to begin her full time medical program. We truly believe that anything is possible with God. It is with that thought in mind that we are able to get up each morning and vigorously attack the projects, opportunities, obstacles, and challenges before us. Without God, the road before us would be impossible. This summer we will be doing some "tag-team" work, alternately bringing in and taking out teams. I look forward to those weeks when our teams overlap so that I will have a week to work with him and we have time to share thoughts and ideas on what to do next.



THIS SUMMER: There is always lots of construction to be done. The first school building is waiting for a roof, which is also the floor of building #3. There is ground leveling and footings to be dug, formed and poured for building #2. Then we have about 3,500 blocks to be laid, 300 roof beams to be set, 3000 roof blocks to be locked in place, and 1,600 sq. ft. of roof concrete to be poured. On March 30 our second dental team arrives. Part of that team will put on their masks and I won't see them again for the week. The rest will be working on the construction projects. We need to construct 165 yards of welded steel picket fence around the perimeter of the clinic/school buildings as added security when Teresa will be there full time. It will also keep the window peepers' face prints off our windows. There is lots of plumbing and finish work to do on the clinic and we would like to get the second story apartment finished by January. If you see anything here you would like to help with, don't be shy, call me and we will work together on this.

Amanda Halstead graduated from Western High School on January 25, 2001. Now, besides working and saving money for college tuition this fall, she is planning to be very involved in Farsight. She will be part of the team going to Mexico this month. She is fluent in Spanish and was part of the original mission team to Mexico and, before that, to Panama. She was a tremendous help last year putting countless hours into the staging process vital to the success of each team passing through our home. We will be counting on her again this year to help even more and we will also be relying on her language skills and ideas as we expand our operation into Spanish speaking countries. An earthquake opened a prison door for Paul and Silas so that they could preach the Gospel. The same thing



Amanda, Panama - 1992



has happened in San Salvador and Guatamala. All the doors have swung open and the cry for help has gone out. Who will respond? If we cross over to the other side of the road and go on our way or if we offer a prayer on their behalf but do not follow that prayer with action what will happen? Can we count on a "Good Samaritan" to come along? It is more likely that false prophets and false teachers will come like wolves into an open sheep pen, devouring, killing, maiming and scattering the sheep. The opportunity awaits. Would you help Farsight, me, Cindy, Paul, Amanda, Teresa, Kelly and the rest, to turn tragedy into hope this year? **The harvest time has come.**