

Disaster Relief Update

by Larry Hicks

Sometimes folks think of missions as being a Christian service that happens in a foreign place, a place requiring a passport. Sometimes, that is exactly right. Our church has strong ministries in places like Guatemala, Haiti, Russia, Liberia and Sudan, just to mention a few. But sometimes a passport is not needed. Sometimes, there are grave physical and spiritual needs – needs that we can address right here, practically in our own backyard. That is exactly what our Disaster Relief Ministry is all about.

The First Baptist DR team is affiliated with the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief program and as such was involved in the response to Hurricane Florence, serving in Whiteville, NC and just a couple of weeks later, assisting the survivors of Hurricane Michael in the Panama City area. The devastation left by Michael was almost overwhelming, requiring an unprecedented response. Florida Baptist teams provided over 128 days of continuous service, involving in excess of 2,300 volunteers. Our teams from FBCP were involved from October to January.

If you have ever experienced a natural disaster, you know how difficult the experience can be and consequently, the opportunities that are afforded to demonstrate the love of Jesus in very tangible way. Talk to anyone who has deployed with our team and you will hear heartwarming stories of lives being changed by the power of the Gospel.

Hurricane season is approaching and we need more trained volunteers. Contact the church office to find out when the next training by Florida Baptist DR will take place.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Larry Hicks, Bob Gowing or Ross Lankford via the church office at 850-433-5631.

THANK YOU FROM OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD RECIPIENTS

The following are excerpts, translated roughly through Google Translate, of thank you notes. First initials are used for the recipients' safety as at least some are Muslim. All three families live in Bobo Dioulasso, the second largest city in Burkina Faso.

Dear friends! I am (female). I was born in 2008. I am "mossi", the majority ethnic here and I am muslim. I am in primary school in the 5th class. My parents are not together. [My mother was very young.] She sent me to her sister to help, and I live there. This is briefly my life. Today I am very happy for your gift. I particularly loved the T-shirt and pencils. It gave me hope to know that some persons loved me at many kilometers of my country. My mother is so glad. Thank you for give me joy, and for the verse.

Hello! My family are very glad for your thinking about us, my only girl is more joyous because she has your gift. My name is E., my wife is T and our girl is N. She has 2 years. My daughter when she passed the gift she rejoiced all day she almost did not even eat at the mercy of joy, I [wish I could send] you one or two pictures of my small family. We thank you for your generous donation to my daughter, N, thanks to you I know that people think of us especially my daughter.

Hello very happy my family and I witness your generosity manifested in the name of Jesus Christ that he even by his grace strengthens you and fills you. My name is C. indeed my daughter G. has benefited from your gift infinitely thank you.



THE GREAT COMMISSION



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE N° 4
SUMMER 2019

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have COMMANDED you; and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Children of Christ Home Orphanage Update by Lori Kizziah



I would like to introduce you to the new American Director for the Children of Christ Home Orphanage, Christelle Nilsen. She began a two year commitment on February 2 and was only there for 10 days before being rushed out of Haiti due to the civil unrest. She was able to return in early March and has now been serving and loving on the kiddos for the last six weeks!

In January, a sweet Haitian couple, Franz and Cherlie Anna, became the house parents for the kids. Franz has worked for But God Ministries for several years now so the kids already had a relationship with him. His wife, Cherlie, teaches at a school in Galette Chambon. Our hope is that the children will grow up under the influence of a Haitian Christian couple to learn what it means to be part of a healthy family. The house parents, The Anna's, the American director, Christelle and the Haitian director, Dieudonne have created the potential of a strong team of leaders for Children of Christ Home orphanage and the kids here.

Since her arrival, Christelle has been keeping her eyes and ears open for ways to get the kids outside of the orphanage. So far, she has found two fantastic opportunities! One is a connection with the orphanage at Love a Child. A friend there invited all of the children over to play with their kids. This was such a great way of getting them connected with others who are in

similar situations as they are. They loved it. The silent, maybe nervous, car ride on the way there was filled with singing and laughter on the way home. The other opportunity was a small river bed that is only a 15-minute drive from the orphanage. At most it is maybe 8-10 inches deep, but the majority is just enough to cover your ankles. It's such a fun activity and a great reward for the kids after a long week.

A few prayer requests for all of us here:

1. Our van is in route to Haiti. We have waited a long time to get a vehicle that will safely transport all of our children to and from school. Please pray that we will be able to receive it from the port quickly, at a low rate, and that it still contains all of the items that it left Miami with. Please pray that it is a long lasting solution in terms of transporting the kids.
2. Pray for water. We have now been without a well for a year. The loss of our well has caused us many issues and several thousand dollars of expenses. We believe we have found a solution. Pray that we are making the right decision and that we will have running water very soon. As of right now, we are spending \$85 every three days for a water truck to come and fill up our cistern.
3. Pray for the children. They have already experienced more hardship than you and I could comprehend. Pray for their relationship with the Lord – that they would grow up to know and love him. Pray for their sweet hearts, that they would not be hardened by their experiences. Pray for their education. Pray for their future – that they would grow up with a desire to make a difference in their community and beautiful country.

There are still two trips in 2019 you could join us in ministry; late July and October. A June trip is already formed and Anna Johnson, FBCP member, will be serving as a summer intern at the orphanage.

Missions Committee: Meets First Wednesday of Each Month

John Hodges, Chair

Blake Benge (FBCP Staff), Matt Johnson, Lori Kizziah, Ali Ohler, Steve Shell (Chairman of Deacons), Barton Starr, Glen Strange, Sharon Thompson, Stephanie White

Submit a request for funding by the 23rd of the month:

www.fbc.org/mission-initiative-form

Missioner Scholarship request by the 23rd of the month:

www.fbc.org/PDF/mission-scholarship-app.pdf



The Great Commission

Missions Newsletter

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Guatemala Mission Trip

by Sandi Jacob

Bernard and I fell in love with the people of Guatemala almost three years ago. We were recruited by World Help to go serve in Guatemala through a local organization there called Hope of Life. We were not too sure what we would be doing, but we felt strongly that God wanted us to go. So we put aside our fears and insecurities and went to Guatemala.

We were immediately impressed with the Hope of Life ministry. They were meeting the needs of the people there in many areas. Just to name some, they minister to the elderly, the handicapped, the mentally challenged (both children and adults), orphans, and they “rescue” critically sick babies from the mountain villages and bring them to the Hope of Life hospital for much needed care. They even bring back family members to care for them, both physically and spiritually.

But the ministry that stole our hearts was the village transformation ministry. This ministry locates villages that are somewhat remote from most civilization, evaluates their needs, and begins the process to meet those needs. Both World Help and Hope of Life are Christian ministries, but they have learned that attempting to fill spiritual needs successfully can only be done after basic physical needs are first met. It is hard to explain Jesus and the Gospel to people who are hungry, sick, and hopeless.

In the past almost three years, groups from our church and community have traveled to two of these villages six or seven times. Clean water has been installed; schools have been updated and repaired; playground equipment has been installed; and most importantly churches have been built. A relationship with these villages has been established and a feeling of trust has begun.

Our groups have been faithful to return, each time with more people and more help. The most recent trip included 26 people from Pensacola and two from Orlando. Our group included two doctors, a pharmacist, and three dentists. This was the first time the villagers had seen a dentist, and most likely their first doctor visit too! The group took boxes of medicine, 1,000 pairs of reading glasses in varying strengths and 500 sunglasses! Eleven houses that had been built were dedicated and a cross presented to each home to remind them of Jesus’ love. Spanish bibles and food bags were distributed to each family. We were told many prayers had been answered, one having been prayed for over 40 years.

To actually be the hands and feet of Jesus is a most humbling experience. And a most incredible one! More trips to these villages will be planned in the future and all are invited to join us as we join God in the work he is doing in Guatemala. There is still much to be done and there is a place for everyone in this ministry, no matter your age, talent, or lack of talent!



House of Love India

Ten years ago, a team from FBC Pensacola travelled with Answering the Call Ministries to Orrissa, India to minister to Christians who endured an uprising by radical Hindus against Christians and Muslims in the region. Homes and churches were burned, and many people lost their lives in the uprising. As a result, a number of children were orphaned and were living on their own in the surrounding forest.

Answering The Call Ministries heard of a young man from the region, Bikrahm Digal, who lost his father in the uprising. Bikrahm was a Christian and was being led by God

to find the orphaned children and provide them a home. At that time, Bikrahm had no home of his own and was living in his mother’s house. A number of the orphaned children that Bikrahm had located were living on the front porches of some of the local villagers. It was Bikrahm’s desire to build an orphanage so that the children would have a safe place to live and could be taught about Jesus and His saving grace.

By God’s grace through the assistance provided by a few churches and donors, including FBCP, the House of Love orphanage was built. It now houses, feeds, clothes and ministers to 54 orphans between the ages of five and eighteen.

Recently, the Indian government has threatened to close the orphanage unless a separate dorm is built for the boys, as the boys and girls cannot reside in the same building. FBCP contributed substantially to the construction of the boys’ dorm. In January, a team from FBCP travelled to India to observe the progress of the construction and to minister to the House of Love and the churches in the surrounding villages. It was truly a blessing to witness first- hand how God’s grace took a young man’s calling and fulfilled it by His provision; to witness the culmination of this ministry from its inception to the successful ministry that exists today.

Century Correctional Institution Kairos Weekend

On March 7-10 FBCP members Dennis Tackett, Tim Milstead, Cal Clevenger, Rick Metzgar, Robert Walls, Barry Hines, and Doug Mott were part of a 26-member team from various area churches that participated in the Kairos Prison Ministry program at the Century Correctional Institution. The Kairos team led 30 inmate participants through what is best described as a short course in Christianity over three and one half days. During this time a series of talks, meditations, small group discussions and chapel worship are presented to the participants. The Kairos program is designed to allow the participants to encounter Jesus Christ and to experience the love and forgiveness found in a personal relationship with Him. It is a very powerful three and one half days for both the participants and the team members. On Sunday the men are invited to share their experiences from the weekend. Virtually every man that participated in the recent program rose to provide a personal testimony on how Christ had touched them during the weekend. The Kairos team returns to the prison each month to conduct what are called Kairos Reunions for graduates of the Kairos program. The monthly reunions are designed to continue to encourage the Kairos graduates in their Christian walk.

Mentorship Classes at Century Correctional Institution

Al Stubblefield, Bob Gowing, Larry Hicks, Glen Strange, and Doug Mott comprise a team of men who are conducting two 10-week classes at the Century Correctional Institution. Currently the team is facilitating the Family Life series; Stepping Up to Courageous Manhood with approximately 15 men in the Faith and Character Dorm. Each Thursday morning from 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m., the team meets with the participants in the dorm to conduct the Stepping Up video and discussion series. The series examines the steps that men need to take to become Godly men. In addition to Stepping Up, the team also conducts a 10 week series on the Mark Batterson book, *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day*. The book is inspired by one of the most obscure but courageous acts recorded in Scripture. This scripture located in 2 Samuel 23:20-21, chronicles a courageous act by Benaiah. The Book encourages men to stop running away from opportunities and begin to chase God-ordained opportunities that cross their path. During the series we examine the life of Benaiah and the Christian principles found in the book that we can apply to our life as men who desire to be men of God.

CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

Haiti | June 1-7, July 27-August 2, October 5-11

Royal Family Kids Camp | June 10-14

Blackfeet Nation Montana (Youth) | July 7-12

Russia | July 26-August 7

Guatemala | Fall 2019

MONTHLY

Prayer at Weis Community School on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Meet in front of the school.

Samaritan Hands

Needs extra large sizes in male and female clothes

Open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Contact 850-438-8907, or samhands@fbc.org.

Women's Jail Ministry

by Mary Baker

The purpose of this ministry is to provide light in a dark place, to pray with and for the ladies, to encourage them in their walk with Christ, to remind them they are not forgotten and to bring any who are not saved to the loving grace of our Lord.

We meet every Monday night with inmates, who are housed at the Women’s Work Release Center, for bible study, music and prayer. We also meet in the Escambia County Jail Chapel with inmates who choose to come to a chapel service on the fourth Monday morning of each month. We have a message and singing.

We believe God calls us to this ministry as encouragers to these ladies who often feel hopeless. Some have been abandoned by families. Most are homesick for their children. There is a lot of guilt and heartache... But we get blessed each week by their struggle to seek the Lord and serve Him. There are no specific skills necessary for this ministry... Only a love for Jesus to be shared with those less fortunate than ourselves and a willingness to open your heart to a group of ladies who will touch your life.