

LOTT CAREY Herald

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May 2012

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More Can Be Done When We Work Together

By The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Murray

One of our challenges as human beings is to learn how to work together to be able to make a difference in the lives of others, especially those who are in great need. No one person can do it all; however, together we can get a lot done. I was able to see this thought fleshed out over the past few years as Lott Carey has responded to disaster relief around the world and even in our own country. We were quick to respond in:

- Haiti when an earthquake devastated an already poverty-stricken nation.
- New Orleans when the hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast.
- Birmingham, Ala., where tornados took more than 250 lives and caused millions of dollars in damage to commercial and residential properties.

It was on Thursday, January 19, 2012, that I had an opportunity to be in Birmingham, Alabama to visit The Resurrection Center located at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, where the Rev. Timothy J. Woods Sr. is the Pastor.

Our convention got involved in building Resurrection Centers to help the people of Louisiana when those two fierce hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, hit that state and people all over the world responded. From that experience we developed a partnership and a friendship that have been lasting with members of the Louisiana State Baptist Mission Convention where the Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert is the President. Because of Pastor Tolbert's experience with Lott Carey in disaster relief, he introduced Lott Carey to Pastor Woods and we have partnered with his church and with him as President of the Alabama State Baptist Mission Convention. This connection has been for more than just good fellowship and the exchange of business cards. It has been for our coming together to do the work of the Lord and to make a significant difference in the lives of people. It has also been an extension of our hand in fellowship and stewardship as Lott Carey has joined with the National Baptist Convention of America and its President, Dr. Stephen J. Thurston.

We are also working with three other African American Baptist organizations—the National Baptist Convention, USA, National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, and Progressive National Baptist Convention—for the restoration of Haiti. I believe more can be done when we work together for a good cause and certainly for the cause of Christ.

Sometimes it takes tragedies to bring people together, and it was a blessing to see how we had blessed the people in Alabama through the



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Missions Work: Life-changing and Powerful Evidence of God's Grace

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

My first international short-term missions assignment was in 1989. I was part of a nine-person preaching team that spent 21 days on assignment in Liberia and Malawi. It helped to change my life in a couple of ways.

First, I learned something new about God's grace. While the people that I met in Liberia and Malawi were enthusiastic, hospitable, and resilient, I was struck by the extreme poverty in which people lived. We got to Liberia just before their civil war erupted. Getting access to the basic things that I took for granted was almost impossible for most people. One of the dramatic memories I have from Malawi was the day that we left. Nearly all 50 of the pastors came from near and far to greet us before our departure. They all came in dark suits (most of which were worn out), long sleeve white shirts (none of which were bright white), and most walked barefoot (not out of choice but because they had no shoes and no transportation). There they stood, almost at military style attention, to thank us for coming and to pray for our travel.

The question that came to me that day was, "Why is my life so much different than theirs? Why was I born in my context of comfort while they were born in their contexts of challenge?" The only answer that made sense to me then (and that makes sense now) is that God has been gracious to me. I do not deserve the blessings that are mine. God has chosen to be kind to me.

Consequently, I try to live my life shaped by gratitude for God's gracious expressions of love to the world and to my life.

Second, I was reminded that the priority in ministry is on people. A mild earthquake caused a crack in the building of the church where I served as pastor few months before departing on my first service-learning immersion to Africa. As a result, we had frequent water leaks in the basement. How to stop the water from seeping into the building became a major project in the life of the church. There were volunteers who came with solutions. There were contractors hired to repair the damage. In retrospect, a comical scene was a day that a backhoe was brought to dig into the earth to patch the crack that went from the bottom of the building to the top. A bunch of guys gathered around to watch and comment. We should have had an all men's worship or study experience that day.

In contrast, I remember preaching in mud brick buildings with packed dirt floors and improvised candle lamps stuck on the wall for lighting at night. People walked for miles in the dark. Songs were sung with enthusiasm and rhythm and harmony. The pastors were more concerned about people than buildings. They were committed to introducing people to Jesus than



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Men's Team,
from left:
Herbert
Hawkins,
Bernard Lott,
Gaylord Wilson,
Ralph Taylor,
Clarence
Newkirk, Rev.
Euclid Williams,
Elder Eric
Taylor, Leonard
Lancaster,
Pastor Jonathan
Hancock,
Reginald Nixon,
Howard White,
London Ruffie
(not pictured:
Ervin
McDaniel,
Romain Colins,
Mark Haley,
Lewis Wiseman.)

Photo: Ervin McDaniel



In Haiti, Spirit is the Gold Standard

By Ervin McDaniel

God, as we start this journey we commit ourselves to You. Help us to be faithful. Make us passionate for You and the people of Haiti. Give us the insights and strategies we need to be a blessing to all those we meet in Haiti. In the powerful name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Sixteen African American men arrived at the airport in Port Au Prince, Haiti on December 1, 2011, in route to Pignon, Haiti. Pignon is located in the northern sector of Haiti and is about 85 miles from Port Au Prince. It took about four hours to drive from Port Au Prince to Pignon. The main highways are good, but once you get off of the main highway the roads are unimproved with many potholes and boulders.

The Mission Trip was sponsored by the Layman's League of The Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. Of the 16 men participating in the trip, seven of the men on the trip were from the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Baltimore. Our host was Jephthe Lucien who is the Pastor of sixty-four churches, twenty-two schools, and two orphanages. The purpose of the mission was twofold, first to provide Christian fellowship to a group of ministers and church leaders in the area

and second to build benches, desks, shelves, closets and hang doors for the school, church, and the mission house. The desks will be used in the school while the benches will be used in the churches.

You may ask how one man can pastor 64 churches. Here's how: The mother church is called Jerusalem at Pignon and as additional churches are established they take the name of the mother church plus the town. So if a church is located in LaCoste, the church is Jerusalem at LaCoste.

Day 1 – Thursday, December 1, 2011

It is 1:15 a.m. Deborah and I are on our way to Ebenezer Baptist Church to catch their church van for a trip to Reagan National Airport. We are at Ebenezer Baptist at the intersection of Guilford and 22nd with one other person, others start arriving to board the van. We packed our bags on the van, say our goodbyes, and we are headed to Reagan. The drive from Baltimore to the airport is about an hour and a half. Our plane leaves Reagan at 6:14 a.m., but we have to be there two to three hours in advance in order to get through security.

On our way to Reagan, the driver got lost and it took us a little longer to get to airport. Once at Reagan, we unloaded the van and proceeded to check-in. We met the team leader, Bernard Lott, and other members of the team who do not live in Baltimore. We all had e-tickets which were a

challenge for those who were not computer savvy. There was someone present to help with the e-tickets, which were both a life and time saver. We got our boarding passes, checked our bags, and were ready to go through security – shoes and belts off, all metal out of our pockets and through the metal detectors. It is about 5:15 a.m. and we are boarding the plane for Miami to connect to Port Au Prince.

We arrived in Miami safe and sound and made the connection for Port Au Prince. On the plane to Port Au Prince, there is a 45 minute delay because of a runway mix-up. On the plane headed to Haiti, the plane is completely full with some nationals and others who are missionaries. I met a Haitian who stated that he was pleased to see so many Black Americans going to Haiti. He stated that most of the missionaries are white and it was good to have Black Americans supporting Haiti.

On the plane we were given a corn muffin, a beverage, and immigration forms to complete before arriving in Haiti. On the ground in Haiti, we are in a group to go through customs. Going through customs was long and uneventful. Once through customs, we gathered to exit the airport. Pastor Hancock from Ebenezer gave us a briefing before exiting. He said stay together and do not let anyone take or touch your bags. As we walked



from the terminal to the parking lot, guys asked to take our bags.

We were in the parking lot when we met Pastor Jephthe for the first time. He introduced himself and welcomed us to Haiti. There is a van, a truck, and an SUV to transport us from Port Au Prince to Pignon.

The ride to Pignon is about four hours. The ride on the main highway was smooth. Once we left the main highway, the secondary roads were very bad – potholes, boulders, and stream crossings.

We are in Pignon – unload our bags enter into the mission house where we will be living for the next nine days. The house is three-story concrete. We will stay on the first floor. The first floor has six bedrooms and a large dining room. Each room had three to four bunk beds or two double beds. The room that I slept in had four bunks beds. There were three of us sleeping in that room. After choosing our rooms, we had evening devotions and dinner. Dinner consisted of rice and beans, chicken, potatoes, and a vegetable salad. The food was good and plentiful. Off to bed.

Day 2 – Friday, December 2, 2011

It is about 4:00 a.m. in the morning, my roommate woke me to ask if I had a flash light. He needed a flash light to see his way to the bathroom. He stated that he gets up at 4-4:30 a.m. every day. I told him “no I don’t.” After being awakened, I did not return to sleep. I got up about 6:30 a.m., others were already up and moving about.

We had morning devotions and then breakfast. During devotions, the team leader- Bernard Lott led a discussion on our purpose in Haiti. We are here to glorify God and not ourselves through our work and fellowship with the people of Haiti.

Pastor Jephthe stated the he wanted to divide us into two groups, one group to visit the site (the school, church, sewing school, and orphanage) and another group to work on site. After some discussion, he stated that there should be three groups, one to visit the sites, one to work, and one that sits and do nothing. His reason was based on the fact that some people were there just to be there and was not going to do any work. The work projects would consist of building benches for the church, desks for the school, a closet for the sewing school, doors and shelves for the mission house. Pastor Jephthe talked about his life and his vision for Haiti. He stated the Haiti will change because of Christians working with God’s help and not the government. We will improve Haiti through the power of Jesus Christ. Many are called but few are chosen.

We all ended up going on the site visit –tour of the church, school, orphanage and part of the town. As we walked along the dirt road of the town, we were passed by young men speeding on motor cycles, people walking carrying water and other goods, and people walking up and down the street.



Photo: Herbert Hawkins

The men enjoyed work and fellowship in in Pignon In rear: Lenny Lancaster, Clarence Newkirk. In front: Mark Haley, Herbert Hawkins, Ruffie London.

Most of the homes we saw were one-story cement on board or concrete.

At the end of the tour, we returned to the mission house for lunch and to begin work on the different projects. By day’s end, we had constructed two and a half desks.

Day 3 – Saturday, December 3, 2011

After morning devotions and breakfast, we divided into two groups – group one made benches and desks, and group two made shelves for the indoor kitchen and doors for the upstairs bedrooms. I was with the group that made the shelves for the indoor kitchen. This group consist of Ralph Taylor, Claude Williams and yours truly, Ervin McDaniel.

Doing construction in Haiti was a challenge. There were tools with missing parts; we had to share electricity from generators that would die at any time. But in spite of the challenges, we worked hard and enjoyed working on the projects. Here in the U.S. if you need something you would just jump in your car and go to Home Depot or Lowes. In Haiti it is not that simple.

Day 4 – Sunday, December 4, 2011

It is Sunday morning. On Sunday morning, Christians go to church. After morning devotions and breakfast we all went to church in three locations. Pastor Hancock went to preach at the mother church, Minister Williams and Elder Taylor preached at two other churches. Deacon Ralph Taylor and I went with Minister Williams. When we got to our church, they were in the process of praise and worship. When I say praise and worship I mean praise and worship! There was a praise and worship leader whose job was to lead the congregation in song and pray. Praise and worship is not for 15 to 20 minutes, but for an hour or more. Since this was the first Sunday, there was communion. Communion is given only to

those who request communion the Friday before the first Sunday. After praise and worship, there is collection, and song by the choir. After this the preacher comes with the message. In our case, we had the preacher, Minister Williams and our interpreter, Joe.

After service we returned to the mission house for lunch. After lunch, we visited an orphanage that Pastor Jephthe runs. The orphanage is the home of 40 girls and three pastors and their families. The homes at the orphanage were very modest. Cooking is done on the outside and the restrooms are also located outside of the house.

Then from the orphanage we went to a fashion show. The fashion show was a project for the final grading of the students. The place was packed – standing room only. The models would come out, walk before the crowd, and then stand before the judges for the final grades.

The judges would look at the seams of the garment and the general appearance.

Day 5 – Monday, December 5, 2011

This is the first day of the conference. We spent all day at the conference center – the Camp. The Camp consists of a church, several out building – kitchen and dining room, and several dormitories to house the conference participants. Pastor Jephthe stated that this was the first time that they have a conference where they had multiple speakers. The conference had two sessions a morning session and an afternoon session.

On the first day, there was praise and worship followed by an opening session where Pastor Jephthe welcomed the participants –pastors, deacons, and lay leaders and gave them an overview of the speakers that will be presenting. The praise and worship were given in French. After the opening session, there was lunch followed by the afternoon session.

Elder Taylor made a presentation regarding the “What does it means to fear the Lord. There was an interpreter who interpreted his message from English to French. Judging from the reaction of the audience he was well received.

Day 6 – Tuesday, December 6, 2011

We spent all day at the conference. We presented at both sessions. At the morning session Brother Ruffies spoke and Deacon White spoke at the afternoon session. Brother Ruffie’s subject was “A leader who serves God in truth with all his heart” and Deacon White’s subject was “What is the source of blessing for a man of God.

After the afternoon session, we went out on an evangelism walk through the community. We had an interpreter with us. We witnessed to four individuals. All of the individuals wanted us to pray for them. All but one accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

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Resurrection Center. I was impressed by the dedicated and diligent work of Pastor Woods and the members of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church as they served the people who had been affected by the tornados. You could see the caring touch as the church reached beyond its walls to meet the people where they were hurting the most.

Pastor Woods has a dynamic team of Ms. Vicky N. Butts, Social Service Provider, and Ms. Chondrella Harrison, Mental Health Provider, who were very professional in helping to get past the “red tape” of getting things done and yet had the ability to work with the people patiently and caringly. They invited community members to share their stories with us. To hear the four people we met speak of how the Resurrection Center has been a help was rewarding. They not only shared how we have met their physical needs, i.e., food, clothing and shelter; but also how we have helped people with their psychological and spiritual needs. One lady spoke of how the staff was helping her by advocating legal matters that had overwhelmed her.

Perhaps it is a feeling of being overwhelmed when all you have has been taken away or destroyed. One man told us of how he had lost everything from the storm, but it was nothing compared to the death of his wife a few months

before. After he spoke I watched how this community, led by the pastor, the social workers and others who had also experienced lost, rallied to comfort him. They had a sense of community and they were caring for each other.

The Resurrection Center is a blessing in helping people get back up on their feet and to strengthen their resolve to overcome the disasters in their lives. It is also a symbol for us to show again that we serve a God who cares, especially in times of trouble and hardship. Since my visit more tornados have hit Alabama as well as other parts of the country, and more storms will continue to come; but, what we have done through the Resurrection Centers is like the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior because both have given people HOPE. I trust that we will continue to be ready to serve people everywhere and that we will also be willing to join with others, i.e., conventions, denominations and churches, to be of help and to show the world that we serve a caring God. Lott Carey must continue to share throughout the world one of the great messages of the church that you can, as written in 1 Peter 5:7, “cast all of your cares upon God for He cares for you.”

The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Murray is Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., and President of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

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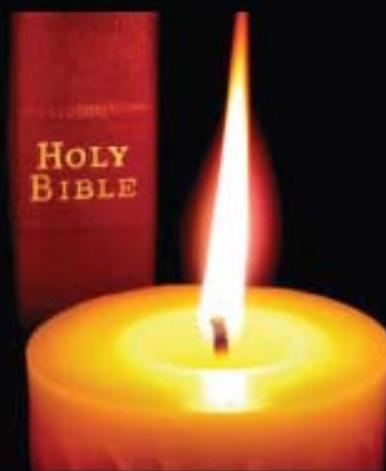
implementing the newest strategies for growth. They were more determined to do faithful ministry among the people than introduce the latest technology into the congregation’s life. I was reminded that people are our priority.

Ultimately, my short-term missions assignment affected me enough to alter the direction of my life. I am confident that my service as a leader in the oldest global missions agency of African-American heritage and a leading world missionary community is directly related to my first international immersion. Other things have helped to clarify my vocation, and other people have helped open doors for service. But God spoke to me during my disorientating cross-cultural experience.

This edition of the Lott Carey Herald captures a few accounts from recent short-term missions assignments. We offer these testimonies with the hope that you will be inspired to go! If you are not called to go to another continent, then perhaps you can go to another culture to serve. If not to another culture, maybe you can go to another community that can be blessed by God’s gifts in your life. Whether near or far, God calls us to go!

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley is Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

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“They needed to know that we cared. They are people just like us, people striving to do the best they can.”

—Cassie Johns, student



The N.C. Central University nursing team, from left, Farrah Latortue, Jerome Pasaporte, Kartrina Wright, Cassie Johns, Nykiya Lee, Shandolyn Brown, Natalie Turkaly, Raya Wilson and Catreina Cherry in Grand Goave, Haiti.

A spring break of service in Haiti

Reprinted with permission of *The News & Observer of Raleigh, N.C.*

Photos Courtesy of Linda B. Vanhook

By John Drescher

Ah, college spring break. Maybe travel to a warm place and lounge poolside. Or go home for a week, kick back in the den with the remote and sleep late.

Eight senior nursing students from N.C. Central University got the warm place but not the lounging or the sleeping in. They went to Grand Goave, Haiti, for a week in March to help people each day from 7 a.m. until at least 5 p.m.

They did health histories, physical exams and vision screens. They gave nonprescription medications. They served about 50 people a day.

Their leader was Linda Vanhook, associate clinical professor of nursing at Central who has volunteered in Haiti since 2005. When Vanhook told her students about the needs in Haiti, they wanted to go – even though each student had to pay \$1,300 to cover travel and expenses.

They were the first Central nursing students to work in Haiti. They were determined to go. They were determined to serve.

“I’ve always wanted to help people that really needed us,” said Kartrina Wright, who is from Oxford. “I didn’t have a choice but to go.”

Shandolyn Brown, from Garner, also felt compelled. “It’s an experience I’ve always wanted – a mission in a different area,” she said. “It was something I had to do.”

Vanhook, Wright, Brown and four other students sat down with me this week to talk about their experiences. Joining us was Jerome Pasaporte of Carrboro, a registered nurse who accompanied them on the trip. Catreina Cherry and Natalie Turkaly, both from Durham, were unable to join us but also went to Haiti.



N.C. Central University nursing students, from left, Farrah Latortue, Nykiya Lee and Cassie Johns sort through medical supplies in Haiti.

Haiti, often known as the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, was desperately poor before the 2010 earthquake that devastated parts of the Caribbean country. Among the hard-hit areas was Grand Goave in southwestern Haiti.

The Central students started each day early and were greeted by long lines of friendly, grateful Haitians. The students worked with the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration, which took care of them in Haiti and arranged sites for their work.

Each day, the NCCU students set up a temporary clinic in a church or small building. Their patients

waited outside, sometimes under the shade of a tarp or tree. Temperatures in Haiti in March typically reach the low 90s.

The nursing students had none of the medical technology typically available to them back home in Durham. They knew that would be part of the challenge.

“I wanted my limits tested,” said Nykiya Lee, who is from Inkster, Mich. “I wanted to see if my skill set from Central would help those people.”

There were many other challenges, as there always are in Haiti. The students had to haul their equipment up a mountain by foot. Only one of the students, Farrah Latortue of Boston, spoke Creole,

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A First Mission Trip Becomes a Praise Song To God's Glory

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” –Matthew 28:19

By Dr. Richardean Benjamin

The medical/dental mission trip to Grand Goave, Haiti, consisted of a four-person team including two nurses, a dental assistant and an orthodontist. This was the first mission trip for two members of the team and the other members we can refer to as veteran mission travelers. Grand Goave, a region of Haiti characterized as a small rural village is populated with approximately 100,000 residents is located about 32 miles south of the capital Port au Prince.

The two hour drive from the airport in Port-au-Prince to Grand Goave, provided a glimpse of the differences between what is considered an urban city and a rural town in Haiti. In Port-au-Prince there were more people, buildings, and traffic. Grand Goave was less congested but the earthquake's aftermath was obvious--crumbled buildings and mounds of debris along roadsides. There were about 200 deaths in the village.

Our team, assigned to the Siloe Baptist Church and School site supported by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship performed health screenings of the school children, a dental clinic providing mostly extractions, cleaning and some filings and maintenance and minor illness care to two remote medical clinic sites (Mt. Tabor and Norgaïsse). Each day was a moving experience in that our team was challenged physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our days were long beginning at 7:00 a.m. when we were picked up by a driver and transported to the Siloe church site for breakfast and preparation for the day's activities. And we returned to Siloe for our evening meal prior to returning to the guest house most days after 7:00 p.m.

The team hit the ground running (so to speak) beginning with day one school screening and dental clinic at Siloe. Day two consisted of an hour's drive to the mountains (Mt. Tabor Church). Our team along with nurse Jenny and her team which included a lab technician, a pharmacist assistant, three translators, and a driver loaded supplies and medicines onto a four-wheel drive truck for the journey. We soon realized why the four-wheel drive truck was necessary. The roads were narrow, rugged and in some instances appeared washed out from the rains. Nevertheless we came to notice a common occurrence, school children neatly dressed in uniforms walking to school. Another common site was resi-



Photo: Kathi L. Reid

Nurses Linda Allen (seated) and Richardean Benjamin (standing) treat patients in Haiti.

dents pounding rocks or clearing brush and tree limbs in the field. While riding along the mountainside, the view was impressive we saw green mountain ridges dotted with livestock. The truck had a seating capacity of five people including the driver. Therefore everyone else rode in the back, which proved to be somewhat challenging as we bounced along the road. I chose not to be one of the outside riders.

As we neared the Mt. Tabor church we began to see people lined along the roadway in anticipation of the clinic opening. Nurse Jenny traveled to the remote clinics once a month for medication management and non-emergency care. The clinic patients spanned all ages and because our team included a dentist, not a regular member of the medical team, many more dental patients showed up. Two of the dental patients not seen at Mt. Tabor walked to the Nargaisse site the following Tuesday in order to be seen.

We completed two days of school screenings at Siloe and conducted two remote medical clinics

carrying for over 137 patients. A unique difference between usual practices followed when treating children at a clinic in the states and treating them in Haiti. We saw a number of children at the clinics without an accompanying parent. However, during one of our difficult dental cases the teen left without the work complete. We were pleasantly surprised when on the next dental clinic day, the teen was brought in by his father to have the work completed. We learned that the young man had been buried in rubble during the earthquake which was a contributing factor for his increased anxiety related to the dental procedure.

Because of the generosity of the team members who traveled on mission's trips before, they thought to bring non-medical gifts and supplies. Linda, for example, brought 130 girls' sundresses that were made by members of First Baptist Church of Manassas, Va. She even solicited Valentine candy from others of us because our trip extended over the holiday. Kristian had recently

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visited Grand Goave providing dental care was responsible for dental supplies which included toothbrushes and toothpaste to justify the candy brought for the children, although the adults enjoyed the candy as well.

The weekend was time off from our medical responsibilities. On Saturday the time was spent exploring the town's market, the bakery, and finally the English School. The walk through the market and the town bakery, reminded me of my humble beginnings with relatives who earned their living as farmers. We learned that the farmers who traveled from the mountains needed to begin their trip down to the town as early as midnight in order to arrive in time for the day's sale which occurred rain or shine. On display were fresh fruit, vegetables, herbs, fabric, hair products, and fresh poultry as in live chickens. Goods were transported by borrows or piled high on the tops of their heads. It was amazing how skilled even young children were at this remarking art. Words don't do justice to the things we saw carried this way during our trip.

At the town's bakery, yeast-type bread was pre-
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Photo: Kathi L. Reid

Medical Team (from left): Richardean Benjamin, Kristian Ethridge, Dr. Brent Frey, a dentist, Kathi L. Reid, and Linda Allen.

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Making a Difference

A Photo Essay By Barbara T. Crump

The Lott Carey Schools are making a difference in the lives of children and families in Brewerville and Bopolu, Liberia. My two mission trips have really helped me appreciate how Lott Carey positively impacts families who have been through two civil wars and political strife. The school teachers and staff are dedicated to giving children a solid educational foundation. We were privilege to observe classes and participate in educational workshops. It is such a joy to see proud students who are eager to learn and take advantage of every opportunity to improve their lives and heal their country. By God's grace, both are being accomplished.

Your prayers and support can make a difference. Please support the Liberia 365 program and help students fulfill their dream of receiving and education. Details are on the web at LottCarey.org.



Kindergarten-1 pupil writes his lesson.



Ms. Crump with her Liberia 365 student, Winnie Surprise.



Kindergarten-1 class learning together.



Upper Elementary pupils greet visitors.

for Liberia's Children



LCMS students enjoy recess.



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*Barbara T. Crump is a
Lott Carey Program
Coordinator in
Richmond, Va.*

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Teaching and Learning in Grace and Thanksgiving at LCMS in Liberia

By Joyce A. Winburn

A recent mission trip to the Lott Carey Mission School in Brewerville, Liberia in West Africa confirmed God's presence with his people in the midst of trying times. The Lott Carey Mission School has been educating the children of Liberia since 1908. After two decades of war and civil unrest, the school in Brewerville has risen like a Phoenix from the ashes. The ravages of war are ever present as you drive through Monrovia--shells of buildings filled with bullet holes, rutty roads, no traffic lights, absence no of clean drinking water, and electricity created by noisy generators. The streets teem with people plying their wares in make shift stalls and shanties. Because of the war, engineers, geologists, doctors, and other professionals left the country, leaving the nation on its own to struggle with rebuilding an infrastructure.

Despite the odds, the Lott Carey Mission School – Brewerville Campus opens its doors every day to almost 500 students, from nursery through Grade 12. Each student arrives in blue and white uniforms, the girls with braided hair, skirts or dresses, white blouses, and white socks and the young men with long pants and white shirts.

Their day begins with chapel devotions led by the staff and students, then procession to various classrooms to begin the day's studies. The scene is picturesque as hundreds of children follow well-worn paths across the campus to attend classes in buildings that are far from picturesque. In the dry season everything is brown and the dust is palpable. During the wet season, the campus becomes a

jungle of vegetation that requires constant maintenance.

Classroom buildings are in need of serious renovations, and in many instances, need to be replaced with safer more appropriate learning structures. There is an ongoing battle to outwit termites, several roofs leak, and wooden floors should be replaced with tile.

A typical classroom has nothing more than dated, wooden, student desks, an uninviting teacher desk, and a well-worn chalkboard. Windows are screened but that allows the dust of the dry season to filter in and settle on everything. There are no working bathrooms because there is no running water on the campus, only bottled water coolers outside each classroom building. There is no school cafeteria, so students bring lunch from home or purchase food items from local vendors, which is frowned upon because there is no way to assure the safety or healthy quality of the food.

Yet the buzz and activity of learning unfolds without concern for the absence of basic classroom amenities.

The school offers a curriculum that includes: language arts, history, the sciences, ROTC, physical education and sports science, home economics, music, French, mathematics, geography, and social studies. Each of these content areas lack learning resources that we in the U.S. take for granted, items such as textbooks, teacher manuals, musical instruments, physical education and sports equipment, microscopes and basic science materials. Student and teachers interact through drills, question-and-answer sessions and transcription from the

chalkboard into copy books. These practices are duplicated across the campus in every classroom.

Despite the lack of resources, the teachers are dedicated and hardworking, and the students are extremely thankful for the opportunity to attend the school. In every classroom students intently copy notes from the chalkboard as teachers lecture and engage them during the entire process. Frequently, students are called to board to solve math problems or identify elements in images drawn on the board. All of this is done with decorum and enthusiasm.

The school holds spelling bees and interclass quiz competitions and students occasionally take field trips. More off-campus excursions are desired but the cost of rental vehicles is prohibitive and the school has no available transportation. In the primary division the parents are actively involved through regular "Open House" and "toy drive" activities.

I have spent my entire adult life as an educator involved with American public schools, and my heart and mind were overwhelmed by the tremendous tasks before the staff and teachers at the school. There are so many challenges, none of which are minor; yet the commitment and devotion to the school and its students were enlightening. Rather than focusing on what they don't have, everyone makes the most of what they do have. Despite the daunting challenges, learning is taking place, children are given hope, and Liberia will be blessed by these young minds as they grow into adulthood and help rebuild the nation.

Joyce Winburn is a Lott Carey Education Consultant in Shelbyville, Ky.



N.C. Central University student Farrah Latortue assists a patient in the waiting area on Monday March 12, 2012. The group saw 44 patients that day.

DRESCHER: Continued from Page 7

the native language. Her family is from Haiti but she had never been there.

The students were there to provide health care but they also connected with their patients emotionally. Latortue bonded with a girl, about 10 or 11, who had lost both parents. Latortue gave the girl her cell number – and was joyful when the girl called her recently for what Latortue called “an informal follow-up.”

“They needed to know that we cared,” said student Cassie Johns of Butner. “They are people just like us, people striving to do the best they can.”

At NCCU, service is part of the campus culture and spirit. The Corporation for National and Public Service recently named Central a national finalist for its President’s Award. Of 642 colleges, NCCU was one of 14 finalists. Five received the President’s Award (one of them was N.C. State University, as described in a recent story in *The News & Observer*).

Just as service is important to Central, Haiti is important to many North Carolinians. In the Triangle alone, dozens of churches and aid groups support orphanages, schools and medical clinics there. In Gonaives, Haiti, earlier this year, I spotted boxes of food from Stop Hunger Now, a Raleigh-based group that relies on volunteers to pack meals that are sent to Haiti and all over the world.

Those who go to Haiti, including the NCCU nursing students, talk when they return about how their visit increased their understanding of American affluence. Of not taking food and shelter for granted. Of the gratitude of their Haitian friends. Of their obligation to reach out.

Raya Wilson, a nursing student from Wilmington, had never been outside the U.S. before her trip to Haiti. “I didn’t want to come back,” she said. “I was crying inside.”



Linda B. Vanhook, Associate Clinical Professor at N.C. Central, was the group leader on the Haiti trip.

McDANIEL: Continued from Page 5

Side Story

While we were witnessing, we approached a young man who had a machete. As we approached him I saw the machete in his hand. This was not an ordinary machete. This was the kind of machete with a wide blade at the bottom and got narrow at the top. The man had a look that said, “I do not want to be bothered.” When asked do you know Jesus he said yes – so I got close to him. When asked do you want to accept Him he looked at his machete and said no, then I stepped back. But when he asked us to pray for him I stepped closer and touched him for prayer. This holds true the statement that God prepares the heart of those to whom you witness.

Day 7 – Wednesday, December 7, 2011

I did not go to the conference today. I spent all day working at the mission house. I was working on finishing the shelves for the kitchen. After working, I went to the waterfall. The waterfall is a man-made fall and not a natural fall. The waterfall is where the stream is dammed up then pumped up in a pipe. At the waterfall, people bath and get water for their personal use.

Day 8 – Thursday, December 8, 2011

Today is a half day of leisure. Before we went to the conference we purchased goods from the local vendors. The vendors had paintings, carvings, dresses, bookmarks and other assorted goods.

The conference ended today at about 2:00 p.m. Deacon Taylor presented today. His topic was what God has done thus far.

After the conference we went into town. The highlight was the people. All of the people smiled at us as we walked pass, some tried to talk to us. We visited the town jail which is a two cell jail. There were two inmates in the jail, one male and one female. Most of the roads were paved in town. There were capital improvements in the progress in town mostly roads and sewers.

Day 9 – Friday, December 9, 2011

Time to head back to the USA, and by 4:30 a.m. we had packed the van and SUV and were on our way to the airport in Port Au Prince. On our drive down the mountains to Port Au Prince we see the country side and it is green and beautiful. When we reach the outskirts of Port Au Prince we made a stop at a tent city where Pastor Jephthe is in the process of building a church and an orphanage.

When we arrived at the airport guys in red shirts were all over the place. We were told not to let anyone touch your bags or to give any one your passport. Check-in was a breeze. They had our tickets waiting for us at check-in.

Once we got our tickets, we checked our bags and went through security. We went through three security checks. Each check involved taking off our shoes and belt three times. If I had known I would have kept my shoes and belt off. Leaving Haiti is easier and faster than getting into Haiti.

Black Men Traveling in as a Group

As we, a group of 16 men, arrived and moved through the airport at Reagan National and Port Au Prince, people took notice. I was approached several times as to what who we were and what we will be doing in Haiti. People were surprised and amazed that 16 Black men would be on a mission for God. Black men do positive things all the time.

The Spirit of Haitians

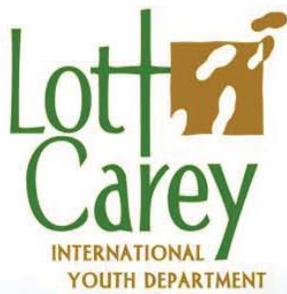
Haiti is known as one of the poorest countries in the world. Haiti is poor when we measure its wealth by income and material goods. But if we measure wealth by the spirit of its people, Haiti is very rich. The people of Haiti are hardworking, very proud of their country and heritage and have a strong faith in God.



Photo: Herbert Hawkins

Haitian clergy worshipping together include Pastors Jephthe and Hancock.

Ervin McDaniel is a member of the Lott Carey Laymen's League and a Deacon at St. Timothy Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.



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Mrs. Nelly Matjeke and the children of Jehovah Jirah Orphanage, which cares for youngsters who lose parents to HIV/AIDS.



Photo: John Rhodes

South Africa Mission: Hands-On Experience and Cooperation

By Dr. John T. Rhodes

In January 2012 it was my privilege to lead a group of fourteen persons on a short term mission trip to South Africa. The team landed in Johannesburg on Wednesday evening, January 18 and was greeted by Rev. Paul Msiza whose confident guidance as our host brought an immediate sense of security to a group of exhausted travelers.

Our stay in Johannesburg and Cape Town was very rewarding because of the great planning that Rev. Dawn Sanders had done coordinating with our South African hosts. In Johannesburg, our team visited the headquarters offices of the Baptist Convention of South Africa. There we met the General Secretary, Rev. Chris Dikana, and learned about many of its programs for member congregations.

A visit to Jehovah Jirah Orphanage in Soshanguve, Pretoria provided us an opportunity for missional service. The men on our team bought gardening implements and worked a small garden plot on the orphanage compound. We dug

the soil, created planting furrows and sowed a variety of seeds in the warm fertile ground. When harvested, the fresh vegetables will provide healthy and nutritious meals for the thirty plus children who are being cared for in the home. The women also shared in the ministry experience by feeding the children in the day school. Before we left Jehovah Jirah the team made a presentation of pillowcase dresses made by the Women's Auxiliary and school supplies to Mrs. Nelly Matjeke, founder of the orphanage and the children, which they graciously received.



A day trip to Potchestroom, South Africa, afforded us the opportunity to observe one of the Baptist Convention of South Africa's ministries to those affected by AIDS. Another inspiring moment was our visit to the campus of the Baptist Convention's College in Soweto. Dr. Yvonne Motaung, principal of the college, welcomed us and shared her vision for the school. We were deeply moved by her commitment and her vision and we are seeking ways that we can help that vision become reality.

When we visited Cape Town we were blessed to be received by Dr. Jacobus Nomdoo and his staff from Teen Challenge and the Enon Tabernacle Western Cape Church. Our time with them was truly a blessing. The entire team shared in a service project along with participants in the Teen Challenge program where we went into the community and painted the exteriors of several homes.

Even though our trip's primary focus was missional there was still time to take in some of the sights of a beautiful country. Table Mountain, Robben Island, the Union Building, the Apartheid Museum, Cape of Good Hope, Soweto and Mandela Square in Sandton were other points of interest we visited.

Every member of the team has since shared how rewarding the exposure to another continent and culture and each looks forward to being able to participate in some other short term mission activity. I am grateful unto the Lord for allowing some in the pews to experience the meaning of being on mission with God.

Dr. John T. Rhodes is Pastor of Trinidad Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

South Africa Mission Strengthens Bonds with Family and Christ

By Patricia Covington

In January, my 13-year-old grandson, Derek, and I traveled to Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa with the team led by the Rev. Dr. John T. Rhodes, Pastor of Trinidad Baptist Church. The thought of traveling so far from home and a 17-hour plane ride caused a few anxious moments as we prepared for the trip but they all melted away when we arrived in Johannesburg and received the warm welcome from Rev. Paul Msiza and his team.

Our visits to the headquarters of the Baptist Convention of South Africa, the Baptist College and Baptist Children's Center provided the opportunity to see some of the important work that is supported by Lott Carey. Our visit to the Jehovah Jirah Orphanage Centre gave us the opportunity to witness the wonderful work being done by Mrs. Nelly Matjeke. Her obedience to God's call to



care for children who have such a great need left an indelible impression on me. Derek helped serve food to the children and his participation in planting a vegetable garden was a new

learning experience for him.

The racial discrimination experienced by Black people of South Africa under the oppressive rule of apartheid and their fight for freedom and equality very closely mirrors the racial discrimination experienced by Black people in the United States and our fight for freedom and equality. It was therefore emotionally moving to visit the Apartheid Museum and other significant sites in Soweto as well as our visit to Robben Island and see the cell where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for so many years.

In Cape Town, our visit to Teen Challenge allowed us to hear the heart-moving testimonies of young people who are being aided in their fight to overcome the lure of drugs, gangs and prostitution. We participated in their beautification project of painting the exterior of homes in their community.

We presented clothing and school supplies to the Jehovah Jirah Orphanage and a new computer to Teen Challenge to show our appreciation for the work they're doing.

Our hotel accommodations were first rate and members of the South Africa Baptist Convention who served as our tour guides were knowledgeable



Photo: John Rhodes

Team Leader John Rhodes and Derek Covington participate in community beautification project in Cape Town.

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BENJAMIN: Continued from Page 9

pared by young men in the town. The process involved mixing the dough, allowing the dough to rise overnight followed by passing it through this vice-type device several times before dividing into individual sized portions to be baked in a hot wood fired oven, similar to a pizza oven. We each took turns turning the vice, although the only person offered a full-time job in the bakery was Brent. Turning the vice was much like rowing a boat for hours at a time – a great upper-body workout.

English-speaking classes are a private enterprise. Young people are anxious to learn to speak English because it increases their employment opportunities. Each of us was assigned to a class to practice basic speaking phrases with a class. The students were teenager and young adults who were curious about everything American. After practicing a number of phrases, the group I was assigned wanted to learn a Michael Jackson song. Needless to say my Michael Jackson singing only comes to mind during a sing along with the radio. Instead of Michael Jackson, they got, *Oh Magnify the Lord*. The students graciously accepted what I had to offer. That evening we were treated with a cookout in the yard of the guest house complete with hamburgers, sodas and marshmallows. Because the group kept a stash of chocolate, we made S'mores over the grill.

Sunday began with worship services at Siloe and much to my surprise, Jenny informed me that as the “team leader” I would be called on to introduce the members and give remarks. With such short notice, there was little time to get nervous and as I opened my Bible, the scripture, Psalms 103 brought a song to mind, *Bless the Lord Oh My Soul*. My remarks included reading and singing verses from that scripture. Following church there was dinner and a couple of hours at the beach. Getting to the shoreline was a harrowing as driving to the mountains as the roadway was narrow and rugged requiring the four-wheel drive truck for transport. Once at the beach it was as if God had smiled on this vast body of land and water. The water was this beautiful clear blue-green color punctuated by gentle waves that crested at the shoreline.

Brent, equipped with snorkeling gear, went out to explore beyond the shoreline only to surface missing one flipper. He wasn't aware when he lost it. The rocky beach and ocean floor made this strolling along the beach almost impossible without water shoes. The beach could be described as a full-service outing because there we sampled grilled spine-legged lobster and conch while doing a little souvenir shopping from the locals. The day ended with attending a youth concert at a nearby church. The church was packed with teens and young adults who sang passionately about their love for God.

This was the first mission trip for half of our team, but we each vowed it would not be our last. Touched by the willingness of the people of Grand Goave to allow us into their lives to share the



Photo: Kathi L. Reid

Dentist Brent Frey and dental technician Kristian Ethridge, treat a patient.

goodness of God in our lives begs to be repeated. Unforgettable memories for me included watching the school children conduct devotions that included singing, *How Great Thou Art*, pledge to the flag and prayer in the courtyard of the Siloe school or in the midst of the rubble on the ground and the nearby tents just outside the walls of the guest-house most evenings we retreated to the roof of the guest house and as we look up the sky was clear and bright with numerous constellations.

I am reminded of an incident that occurred during school screening. To track the students that had completed the school screening each was given the opportunity to select a sticker the kind printed with happy faces or stars. There was one teenage girl who was given a sticker after completing her check, but as she walked away she discarded the

anti-parasite medication on the ground. So I asked her to return the sticker since she didn't swallow the medicine. She was so disappointed that she returned and agreed to take the medicine so she could wear a sticker like her classmates. I was amazed at the amount of pride each child exhibited over wearing a “happy face” sticker.

Every Day Is A Day of Thanksgiving was the song that came to mind as we began our exit session with our host. My feelings of gratitude seemed to pale in light of their expressions of appreciation, which brought tears to my eyes.

Richardean Benjamin, Ph.D., is Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences, Old Dominion University, and a Member of First Baptist Church Bute Street, Norfolk, Va.



Photo: John Rhodes

Members of the Trinidad Baptist Church, Washington, DC.

COVINGTON: Continued from Page 17

and accommodating. We experienced the breathtaking beauty of Table Mountain and the Cape of Good Hope; saw rare white lions during our safari and got up close and personal with a few ostrich and baboons. We dined at the Carnivore Restaurant sampling foods that included crocodile, impala, Haik (fish); eel sushi, ostrich, pap or pop (somewhat like grits); malva pudding, chakalaka (bean & vegetable stew), fish curry and passion fruit (the world's ugliest fruit). And, I have to confess, Derek out-did me in sampling all of these unusual culinary delicacies.

I don't have the words to fully express the awesomeness of our worship experiences in Johannesburg and Cape Town. From the warmth of the people, hearing the young lady translate Pastor Rhodes' message, to the songs sung by the choirs in their native tongue all left no doubt that we were worshipping with sisters and brothers in Christ and that we all worshipped the One and Only True God!

Derek and I are very thankful to Lott Carey for making our journey possible and to Rev. Rhodes for his caring leadership and devotional service that started each day. We traveled thousands of miles from home to another continent but it felt very familiar and God blessed us to return safely home with memories of the beauty of the people and the country that will last a lifetime.

Patricia Covington, a member of Kettering Baptist Church in Largo, Md.



Photo: John Rhodes



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