

2011 has been a very good year for our projects in Haiti.

With help from IDES we were able to start a program to help 80 families have their own flock of sheep. We bought 28 sheep, all ewes, and gave them in pairs to the first 14 families that were chosen in a raffle with all the families present. Each family is supposed to give back one lamb per year for the next 2 years to supply sheep to grow the program.

Some of the purchased ewes were already pregnant so lambs started arriving shortly after the program began.



Last year, shortly after the earthquake, we asked the farmers to double their vegetable gardens to provide more food in the markets. I was pleased, excited, and a little surprised to see that the expanded gardens had been replanted again this year without assistance from FCM or IDES.

Giving people a “HAND UP” really can work.

I still have 66 families waiting for sheep. If you want to help speed up the flock expansion program, a pair of sheep costs \$120. I know all the families and all the sheep get tattoos in their ears for tracking purposes so I could easily connect you to a family and to your sheep. I could even send you a photo of the lambs. They are snowy white and really cute for several weeks. Eventually the red/brown clay soil stains their wool and they start to look just like mom.



The first week of July a fantastic team came together to start the FCM "Wood for Cornstalk" housing exchange program.

At right: In the back row are Lowell & Noah Kosak, me and Nate Mark. The middle row are Nabien, Anna Ferris, Sony, and Jenny Mark. In front, Christina Rexrode and Erin Pohlman.

This team also had the task of completing the rainwater capture system. The 4" PVC pipe was grooved. The roof edge was inserted into the groove. Then straps were attached to allow a slope to the downspout. A 12' diameter pool was erected inside the church building, and then God sent the rain. We discovered that 4 hours of rain will fill the pool - about 2,000 gallons.

(Breaking news: I recently shared this story with a friend who then pulled out his checkbook and provided funding to DOUBLE the system capacity by adding gutters and pool for the other side of the church building.)



Two years ago in this region, 24 children died from the lack of clean water when a drought caused the springs to go dry.

While Lowell, Noah, and Nate worked on guttering, the rest of the team began "the experiment" to build a sturdy plywood & 2x4 structure, 12'x14' with a level wooden floor, that could replace a cornstalk house with a dirt floor.

The cost of material is about double the cost of U.S. material so each house costs about \$1,250. There is no electricity and the only plumbing, as you will see later, is a rainwater capture system.



House #1 became a bunkhouse with 4 bunkbeds (sleeps 8) and house #2 became the cookhouse. We have fed about 15 at one time in the cookhouse although when there are that many packed in it's not too easy to get an accurate count.

On July 30, a team from Kinetic Christian Church, Charlotte, NC., went back with me to build more houses. We had to wait a day for the plywood to arrive so the team built benches for the church, added rainwater capture to the cookhouse and an outdoor shower stall on the back corner of the cookhouse. Here is the team:

Jennifer Feeler (with Pastor Louime), and Ashley & Joaquin Jiminez are returning team members. Steven Tilley, Tracy Himes, and Anna Fleig are new but I think they will be returning again soon.

The love they leave on the mtn. is traded for memories that will last them a lifetime.



Houses #3 & #4 quickly became homes with families at right. The team got 1 1/2 houses done before T.S. Emily came along and chased us off the mountain. We kept driving out from under the rain bands only to be delayed (flat tires) so that the leading rain caught up with us. We finally got across the rivers and into Jacmel about 20 minutes before the strong winds and hard rain started. Most of the storm went up the mountain just east of Seguin and over the top, dropping lots of rain. Nego's team of young men returned to Seguin the following week to finish the second house. Some of the crew have been involved with all 4 houses so they are ready for me to send funds for material so they can start building houses even if I can't be there.



If you want to help a family get off the ground and out of a corn-stalk firetrap you can send part or all of the \$1,250 needed for materials and/or you can volunteer to be on a team to help build a house.



Because of the storm we had some extra time in Jacmel so the team repaired/constructed a set of bunk beds for future teams to use.

We also funded and put together 25 meal bags which Nego and his team took to widows that live in the area who might not be able to get out and get food because of the storm.

Nego's team of young men decided it was their "Christian duty" to care of these "little old ladies." (James 1:27) They check in on them from time to time to see what needs they have and then try to meet those needs whether it's food, or medicine, or medical care, or repairs to their houses.

Ways to help Farsight Christian Mission:

1. I've mentioned the sheep program - \$120 for a pair of sheep.
2. I've mentioned funds for a house - \$1,250/house
3. Do you have **cell phones** (and chargers) left over after you upgraded? Nego would like to be able to offer cellphones for sale in Haiti as a means for help support himself and his work there. There is a good market there for the not-so-smart phones. You can send them to me and I'll get them to him. Try to collect a box full from church friends or people at work.
4. I have recently been contacted by several people interested in medical mission work. For this to work I will need to secure medicine and supplies in Haiti. To do this I will need funds. Medicine in Haiti is not as expensive as here in the U.S. so it actually works best to buy it there. We avoid a whole bunch of potential problems by not carrying medicine in our luggage.
5. I'm starting now to plan for teams to travel after the hurricane season is over. The ideal team has 8 members, (4 men, 4 women), who don't mind sharing a single dorm (4 beds on the left, 4 beds on the right with a private changing area). Omnivores willing to eat whatever I serve will do very well. Keep in mind I pack all our food and most of it must be reconstituted once it gets to the cookhouse. More than one shower during the week should be considered a bonus. Pictured at right is half of the dorm.
6. If you like what you see and find us trustworthy I would appreciate your support of all that Farsight Christian Mission is involved in. Sending designated funds is great as it helps me to focus on the projects that others (you) see as important. But, FCM still needs general fund support. This support is the foundation from which all other projects are launched.

***FCM is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Donation statements are sent annually.***

Bonus Shower mentioned below



Scenic Walks How you get to where you want to go



The Dorm

