

So far, 2017 has been a very successful year for CrossRoads with two church buildings completed and ready for worship to begin! This newsletter will be dedicated to the teams who gave of their time and talents to these projects. To begin our journey, I am reminded of how God spoke to Abraham: 'The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.'" *Genesis 12:1* This passage talks about faith in the uncertainty. Fast forward to *Hebrews 11:8*, 'By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.' For many of our team members, this was their first trip to Haiti...uncertainty. For others, it was the first time 'camping' in the mountains...uncertainty. We hope you enjoy their testimonies about how God turned their apprehension into a time of encouragement and inspiration.

**Fort Delpeche** Our first testimony comes from Conlan Swope who led and helped to plan this church building project. *This was the first trip for all of us to build a church and actually spend nights in the mountains of Haiti during the build. As most of us tried to imagine what the trip would look like, what the sleeping situation would be, what the village people would be like and would our materials even be there, nothing could prepare us for the work that God had in store.*

*When thinking about the trip it is hard to imagine the words Haiti and cold going together in the same sentence. However, at 4,872 feet above sea level, it turns out they are one in the same. With 80 degree work days and beads of sweat rolling, complemented by sub 40 degree nights, God had a variety in store for us. Sleeping in a Haitian built "lean-to" with a fire on the floor in the evenings, as Haitian villagers shuffled in and out throughout the evening, brought a brand new perspective to what these mountain people were faced to deal with once we left. It is a simpler way of living in the mountains and filled with small, scattered villages which rely on crops and harvests to meet their everyday needs. For some it felt as though we were the first foreigners that they had ever come in contact with.*

*As we worked to complete the 24' x 40' wood and tin framed church, God's word unveiled itself to me as I reflected on Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world--like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." This small church was a beacon in the mountains of Haiti. A sense of hope and for many, the only hope that would ever reach them in the mountains. Nothing is guaranteed or promised past today, and I may never make it back into the mountains of Haiti again. But, God willing, I am excited to be part of CrossRoads teams that will venture deeper into the mountains of Haiti to unveil God's Light. And through it all, if one person in those mountains comes to know the Lord, we will have finished the race which Christ Jesus has set out before us to run.*



Ramsey Sybel was one of the 'rookies' on this trip. *With this being my first trip to Haiti and my first Mission Trip, I wanted to let you know my experience was completely different than what I could have ever imagined. Meeting the people involved in the trip and meeting the local people of Haiti, the experience was hands down an experience I will keep with me forever.*

*There are a lot of takeaways from this trip but I wanted to expand on just a few that really stuck with me. When I heard we were going to head into the mountains of Haiti to build a church, I had no idea what to expect. After traveling in the back of a pickup truck for 3 hours through the roughest terrain I've experienced in a vehicle, getting to our final destination was worth the journey. Seeing how the people of Haiti survive in the mountains and what little they have, it was eye opening for me when I look back on my own life and truly realized just how blessed I am and how blessed we are as a nation. Through CrossRoads we were able to build a place of worship for this group of people who otherwise would not have anything more than a shelter thrown together with sticks and tarps. It is encouraging to know an organization like CrossRoads exists and to see the impact they are making in a country that needs so much and has so little.*

*Church on Sunday was an awesome experience for me as well. Even though I couldn't understand the language, you could feel the Holy Spirit present in the joy and energy these people have. When I looked around at the people during the service, all I could see was joy and happiness. This was a joy and happiness I have never seen before. These people do not find their joy in things or possessions but*

*rather in pure joy of worship and that is why it is so important to continue building these churches in Haiti. When these people have a place to congregate and celebrate, it will allow more and more people to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Personally speaking, I know this was only the first of many trips for me to Haiti with Crossroads.*

*Mike Haverstick also shared his thoughts. I didn't know what to expect during my trip to Haiti. I had never been out of the country and had never been on a long term mission trip before. I chose to go on this trip to serve the Lord through helping to build churches, little did I know the Lord would work in me. Seeing how appreciative the village people were that we would do this project was very emotional. I could envision that colorful new building that stuck out like a sore thumb on top of a mountain, in a village full of houses that had been pieced together, echoing the glory of the Lord through the mountains. I also envisioned people coming to this new church because it looks so unusual to that area and coming to know the Lord for generations to come.*

Thanks to this six-member team and a generous gift from New Providence Church of God, the village of Fort Delpeche now has a church they can worship in and be protected from the elements. The pictures below show the progression of the work to build this church in the mountains.

### **Our Fort Delpeche Team**

Ramsey Sybel  
Sean Cotter  
Mike Haverstick  
Randy Soders  
Conlan Swope  
J L Swope



**Saintard (January)** The second January work team led by Tim and Ray Wimer, included a group of masons who laid the block walls for a second church, sponsored by Wesley Church. This was the first trip to Haiti for most of this team, and Chet Musser shared some thoughts which captured

**Our Saintard Team #1**

Mike Weaver

Aaron Dates

Jackson Stoltzfus

David Bitterman

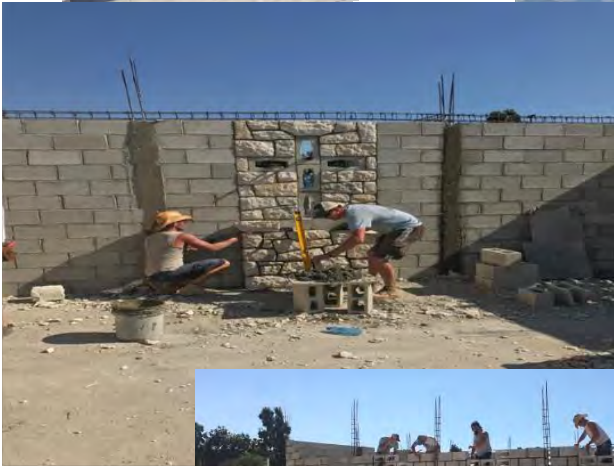
Chet Musser

Raymond Wimer

Tim Wimer

how this group felt while performing their gift of labor. *The opportunity to travel to and work in Haiti was pure construction gratification. As an American stonemason accustomed to working hard, the Haitian adventure intrigued and excited me. To work in the sun in a tropical climate in the middle of January hardly seemed like a sacrifice and it honestly never felt like one. There is a certain contentment that is derived from giving up the desire for monetary gain when doing something that you love and doing it just for the benefit of others that I never truly felt until this trip. It is so much more satisfying and makes me genuinely consider God's sacrifice.*

*What Christ did, He did without any expectation of reward or return, it was all love. It is a mindset and a lifestyle that I will never come close to achieving, but this trip has taught me to chase it and I will do my utmost to go further up and further in my life and love for the Creator.*



Those of us who watch the progress of each week through the emails that Jeff sends out to our board throughout the week, always look forward to seeing how our teams will work the cross into the planning. At Fort Delpeche, we saw the cross prominently displayed in red on the roof. At Saintard, we were treated to a beautiful stone cross, lovingly crafted by the stonemasons. Dare we say best yet?!?!



**Saintard (February)** The February work team consisting of members from Wesley Church and New Providence Church of God completed the church at Saintard, added a bathroom and built church benches. What follows is a summary of the trip prepared by Ken Walton.

*An awesome Team consisting of Steve Burke, Tim Delp, Brad Duvall, Gary Eberly, Kent Hastings, Pastor Dwight Lefever, Randy Soders, Jeff Swope, and Ken Walton descended upon Haiti for the week of February 14 through February 21. The purpose of the mission trip was to complete the church building project in Saintard begun by the stone masons/block layers last month. We were blessed to build upon the foundation that those on that mission trip laid. As 1 Peter 2:5-6 states, "...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'"*

*The Team gelled quickly and selflessly worked together to complete a church project that proved to be an answer to fifteen (15) years of prayer of **Pastor Ordig (sp?)**. Hearing the Pastor's testimony and seeing the need in the community, it is with great expectancy that we seek God's blessing upon this church plant. In a humbling and overwhelming time of fellowship and prayer by the Team with Pastor Ordig and his family culminated our efforts as we were blessed with the experience of seeing God's handiwork.*

*It is our continued prayer that this community grows closer to God, experiences many souls being saved, and becomes the foundation for Haiti becoming a Christian nation no longer slave to poverty, government oppression, and voo doo.*

*While our objective was to bless the people of Haiti, our Team was blessed immeasurably as we grew closer to God, each other, and our brothers and sisters in Haiti.*



### **Our Saintard Team #2**

Pastor Dwight Lefever

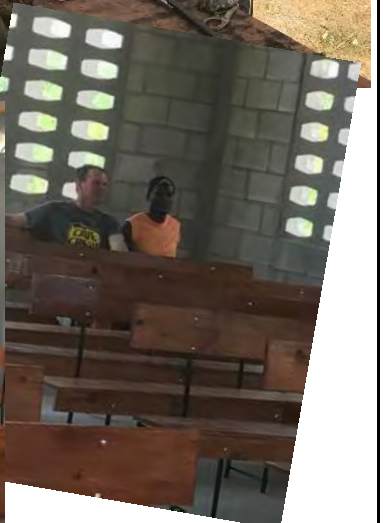
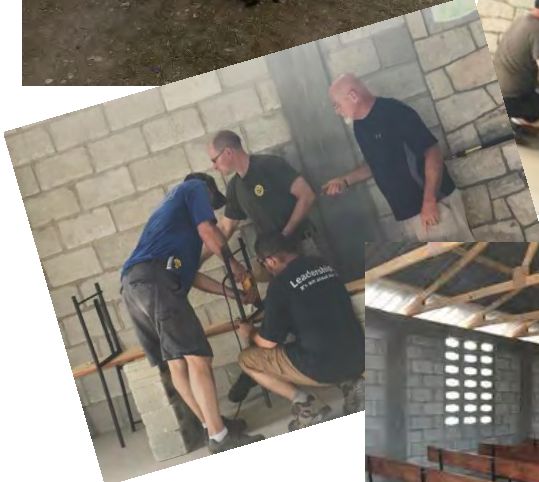
Gary Eberly

Brad Duvall

Ken Walton

Randy Soders

J L Swope



God's message to Abraham was '...just begin the journey'. Many of those who joined us on these work teams did just that; stepping out in faith even when they couldn't quite see where God was leading them from their present vantage point. That's why it's called 'faith'...without which it is

impossible to please God. On behalf of CrossRoad's board members, we thank them for their faithfulness and we thank you for your never-ending support. God's blessings on all!



Sunday worship at  
Williamson North  
(built in 2016)



### **Prayer Praises and Requests**

Praise for the success of our January and February work teams who built two additional churches. We pray that God will use these tools to evangelize and bring many to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their risen Savior.

Prayer for the 2017 March Medical Trip. (March 15-23). Due to unforeseen circumstances, our shipment of medicines and supplies did not arrive in Haiti as planned. The team will now need to carry these with us on the plane and secure safe passage through customs.

Praise for the faithful support of New Providence Church of God and Wesley Church; for standing beside us; for praying with us; and for your generous financial donations.

Prayer for discernment as our board contemplates additional church planting and makes decisions about ongoing commitments.

### **How to Make a Donation to CrossRoads**

Checks may be made payable to: Online at: [www.crossroadshaiti.org/how-can-you-help/](http://www.crossroadshaiti.org/how-can-you-help/)

CrossRoads Mission HAITI

**PO Box 55**

Quarryville, PA 17566

Contact us at: [crossroadsmissionhaiti@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadsmissionhaiti@gmail.com)

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