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SPECIAL EDITION

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We celebrate the ministries of Doug & Stuart as they head into retirement from Mission Experience.

We thank both Doug and Stuart for their ten+ years of faithful service with Mission Experience. The work they accomplished for God's kingdom through Mission Experience has been overwhelming. God's Garden would not exist today if it were not for the hard work, dedication, and faith of these two servants. They have loved our kids and staff, and with the help of God, donors, missionaries, and local Haitians, so much has been accomplished and so many miracles have been witnessed! May God be with them as they seek new ways to serve God in their retirements. Farewell Letters from Doug & Stuart

It's been over ten years and 36 trips ago that I joined in the mission to serve in Haiti.

Avast my friends! Time to wrap up 15 years of God's leading. Here are some thoughts.



This part of my life has come to a close as I move into the next adventure that Jesus has for me. What a great honor and privilege this journey has been to serve the Lord as the construction coordinator for all these years. We built a new orphanage, a new school, new construction teams (some entirely Haitian), new friendships and new reliance on the Lord as He guided me and covered me on every trip and through every crisis. I wouldn't trade a minute of it as it led me closer to Jesus.



What an amazing trip it's been.

Doug Kotwica



My life is vastly richer and deeper due to the experiences and people of the last 15 years working with missions in Haiti. Below are some reflections on what I learned, experienced and am thankful for.

I LEARNED:

1. To use God's creativity to write about Tornado Pete encouraging people in His Word and with fun stories.
2. To build roof trusses from scratch framed on the cement pad and gusseted with plywood. My Haitian friends cut hundreds of 2x4s and sheets of plywood without shedding a single drop of blood.
3. Improvise countless ways to accomplish countless tasks. (a) using a gallon zip lock bag half full of water as a level to build a roof. (b) using a stopwatch and 5 gal. bucket to calibrate a water filter. (c) using a bicycle inner



tube to repair a brake diaphragm on the bus. (d) cutting tubes of silicone open to get to the center that hadn't dried out in the heat.



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4. To trust and praise God anew even in the darkest of times.
5. How to fill a swimming pool 100 feet away from the faucet without a hose. Multiple sections of 2 inch PVC pipe works just fine. What fun is had with 30 kids in a 10 person pool.
6. That practicing obedience to the Father is enough.
7. To keep track of the only ¼ nut driver, for the sheet metal screws, to be found anywhere.
8. Ways to teach welding, sewing, catering, electrical, construction and plumbing to young and old in Haiti.
9. About solar energy from scratch. God provided advice, equipment and favor to purchase, deliver and install electrical supplies for the staff and kids.
10. It is OK to be used to collect and deliver equipment and supplies only to eventually lose it to the enemy.
11. How God creatively and powerfully provides through 4 restarts.
12. To repurpose materials from 10 buildings in Nebraska to help teams, staff and children in Haiti.

I EXPERIENCED:

1. Flying 40 times into Haiti by His Provision and favor.
2. How a newspaper article could be used to network with His people to deliver His supplies. Thank you New Roots, Cap Haitien.
3. Watching the impossible happen over and over. Remembering that nothing is impossible for God.
4. Watching children joyfully make toys out of water bottles, string and lids.
5. Flying a two-engine private plane to Florida and out of Haiti. I got to see God separate threatening storm clouds to allow us to pass by.
6. God moving hearts of people to donate to people they would never meet here on earth.
7. Working side by side with my children and extended family to serve others in Haiti.
8. Seeing a child go from homelessness to a career of leadership
9. Helping a well team to drill for water in the face of huge obstacles and failures only to hit a gusher.
10. Being mobbed by children exuberant about seeing me.
11. How God provided in specific needs. Like finding in the dark, where the only part was to repair a propane line and feed the team and, finding 2 -3in 6x32 bolts to install a solar breaker. No bolts no power.
12. Rescuing a mountain climber rescuer tangled in the razor wire on the pavilion Roof.
13. Removing 8 forks out of the Pavillion Kitchen drain. To help the nannies.
14. Praying with men and women for strength and joy and making lifelong friends.
15. Helping volunteers to spread 100s of gallons of paint mostly where we wanted it.
16. Fighting rats, termites, mosquitos, corruption and Voodoo and winning in Jesus.
17. Teaching children how to measure and cut wood.
18. Working side by side with Haitian men to build.
19. Watching a good friend train these men in the Word.
20. Assisting Nannies with lights, shelves, washing machines, running water, stoves and sinks.



I AM THANKFUL FOR:

1. All the above and more.
2. The laughter about asking a dear friend to get the elbow sander.
3. The shop class in Gretna, that repaired a welder and made a cart for it. God moved young men to help others.
4. The tech college teacher who built a welding shop and trained our boys to weld. He also designed school desks that we are still using.
5. The gifts of so many who supported me financially. They enabled me to serve.
6. Brothers in faith who adventured with me to Haiti one on one.
7. People who showed up to strip resources out of abandoned buildings, load trailers and move them to Florida. I walked with giants.
8. The opportunity to share all this with my friends and wife.
9. To enjoy staying in tents without lights or AC, in dorm accommodations, in Hotel suites and in cabins, all complete with mosquitos without catching malaria
10. The opportunity to partner with people who never made it to Haiti but chose to give out of their hearts.
11. The chance to toil and sweat all day, shower with very cold water, laugh with teams, and sleep well
12. Having the honor and privilege of walking with many on their first mission trip and see God work in their lives.
13. The gift to cry and weep together as we faced the darkness, cost and struggle of being obedient in a hard place.
14. The gift to join God in the adventure of serving His people here and in Haiti.

Praise and thanks to God. Thank you as well for your part and thank you to the Board of Directors of Mission Experience. Goodbye for now. Keep showing up, the adventure is not over. Remember each step is taking you someplace new.

Tornado Pete ~ Stuart Pederson



What's Happening in Haiti



GRADUATION

This July, we celebrated the graduation of Dieuselande from High school. She now has to pass the national test and be accepted into college for nursing. Please pray for her!!



Grace Academy News!!

We are excited to have graduated 29 kids from our fifth grade this year. Pictured are the kids graduating to the next level.

Pray as we are hoping to add a middle school this fall.



Jameson is one of our new Chauffeur's. He is taking his driving test this month (August) and will become an official driver for us.



Our kids are growing up!!!



Please keep a look out for two upcoming events this fall:

October 10th in Hales Corners, Wisconsin - We are hosting a Dinner with Pastor Mike and leaders at Mission Experience. This will be both a fundraiser for the school and an update on Mission Experience. The location and time will come out soon. This will not be a large banquet like we have done in the past. This will be a more intimate meal, allowing for a time of more personal Q & A, with Pastor Mike.

There is also a similar dinner being planned for the end of October in Colorado. Time and location will be announced soon.



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