

February 2009

From the Pastor



A Mission with a Vision

About two years ago Jim Crosby (then the church chairman) and I sat down at Starbucks to talk about a mission trip for our church. I heard that a little over ten years ago a group from our church had gone to Cap Haitian to serve a ministry called Vision of Hope. As Jim and I talked about that trip we got excited about having our church once again go on a mission trip to Haiti.

But we wanted something different. We wanted to have a relationship with a ministry that would be ongoing. Our desire was to see our church partner with a church. This partnership would be a long lasting relationship that would afford us the opportunity to truly know brothers and sisters from another country and to learn how to serve them in a way that would stretch our fellowship.

We started to develop a plan. I asked Jim if he could oversee the plan. Jim ran with the idea and God has blessed his efforts. As we continued with the idea I had the opportunity to see the ministry first hand. God has opened doors for our church for ministry in ways that I would not have expected.

This month our church is sending out eight people to fulfill that dream of two years ago. We will be joining with Vision of Hope and the



church plant in Berard, Haiti. Henoc Lucian, the key missionary of Vision of Hope, and Sansoir George, the key elder of the church in Berard are the two men who will be our guides during our trip.

We have three main projects while in Haiti. The first project is to build a

wall around the new Berard church building. The second is to work with students at the school that Vision of Hope oversees in Cap Haitian. The third project is to conduct two youth "gatherings;" one for young people who live in Berard and one for students at the school. Our desire is that through these projects we will begin to develop relationships with believers in Berard.

This is only part of what we hope to accomplish during our trip. We also hope to grow as believers as we reach out to this church family. As God calls us to ministry and we answer his call we cannot help but grow in Christ. There will be hard times during this trip; those times will lead us to learn to trust in God. There will be times of great joy; these will be times when we learn to praise God for what He has given us in the midst of almost nothing. The temporal will be placed alongside the eternal and we will learn the difference.

If you wish you could be a part of this experience, don't worry, we plan on going to Haiti on a regular basis every two years. Our hope is that during the alternating years that we are not in Haiti will be years where a group from Berard will come to visit us and help us in ministry.

Please pray for our church as our team goes to Haiti. Pray that God will take us to a new level of ministry as a church body in this relationship with Vision of Hope. And when you pray, ask God when He plans on having you come to Haiti.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Art". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P' and 'A'.