

Concord Baptist Association,

Westwood Baptist Church would like to express thanksgiving to the administrative leadership team of the CBA for the financial assistance awarded to our church for 2013 towards mission projects.

The funds were used to support a team from Westwood going to Haiti over January 5th-11th. Our team members joined a larger team from Raleigh, NC as we traveled together from Miami to Canaan Orphanage in Montouis, Haiti located north of Port au Prince.

This was the third trip now that Westwood has supported and participated in to the Canaan Orphanage. Our church is trying to identify long term partnerships overseas wherein many people will be encouraged to participate in the mission trip experience.

The mission partnership with Canaan Orphanage is a beneficial one for both our church and Canaan. The benefit that Westwood mainly experiences is spiritual in nature. Each time we go our members gain an important perspective about how one really only needs Jesus plus one's basic necessities in order to live for God. Our members come into contact for a week with orphans who do not have fathers or mothers, who completely depend upon the grace of God to provide for their every need.

This is always a humbling experience to Christians who live in America. The squabbles and fusses that plague many churches here in America are put into a proper perspective when you experience the life of an orphan in Haiti. Additionally, witnessing the joy they have in Lord, despite having very little in this world, is very humbling.

The benefit that we bring to the Orphanage is multifold. First, part of the team led a pastor's conference for 15 Haitian pastors. The Leaders of the Canaan Orphanage have a historical relationship with a church planting movement in Haiti associated with the Ebenezer network of churches.

So each time an American team visits Canaan, we try to invite a number of pastors in for training. Some of these pastors cannot read very well. And many lack any formal training at all.

This trip the pastoral training team taught on the theme of “Unity in the Christian Church.” The messages were as follows:

1. Unity in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
2. Unity in Holiness
3. Unity in Love
4. Unity in the Mission of the Local Church
5. Maintaining and Preserving our Unity

Each session was accompanied by a time of questions and answers. The pastors expressed tremendous gratitude for the conference.

One of the teams participated in building and grounds needs of the physical grounds of the Orphanage. The main projects of this trip were as follows:

1. Fully providing electricity to all rooms in the medical clinic operated by the Orphanage.
2. Secure the main electricity box in the clinic.
3. Hang doors in the clinic.
4. Build and install screens for windows in the girl’s dormitory.
5. Diagnose the problem in the main water pump.

An additional team worked in the medical clinic assisting the professional staff employed there. This team helped with interviewing patients and filling prescriptions ordered by the doctors. Medicines brought from America were also organized in the Pharmacy.

One final team worked directly with the orphans. Care was provided for infant orphans, giving full time help a needed break. Clothing brought from America was organized and distributed to the orphans. Some team

members helped clean and organize the rooms. Other team members participated in assisting the kids with their school work.

This mission trip was extremely successful and rewarding. Each team member performed well and is excited about going back in the future. The bulk of your money went to pay for transportation to Haiti. Finances were the biggest obstacle to team members going on this mission trip.

Again, thank you for your aid.

Lead Pastor Jason Morrison
Westwood Baptist Church