

Renewed Hope in Haiti, Pastor Mike Ramsey, Carlisle United Methodist Church, Michigan

In February 2012, I was a part of a mission team to Haiti and at the end of the trip I said, "I don't ever need to come back to this country again." After going to 3 different countries on 1 or 2 trips per year for the past several years, I have grown to have some expectations of the local people that I serve. On this trip I did not see that mission teams were making a difference in the lives of the Haitian people that we were serving. I became concerned that we, as Americans, were not helping those in need, but we were possibly making the problems worse for the Haitian people.

Some people convinced me to give Haiti another try, before I gave up on the entire country because of a few people. In June of 2012, I was back! This time I had the opportunity to work with Tom Braak and Faith in Action Int. This trip was very different from my February trip. And I was renewed in seeing that people can make a difference when they give of themselves in service to someone that is in need.

Some of the things that I view as crucial to a successful mission trip:

- 1) We do NOT go and do something that we think that the people need.
- 2) We do NOT just give handouts to make us feel good.
- 3) We do NOT go and tell people what to do, how to live, or what they need.
- 4) We are NOT there to do for people – we ARE there to do with people.
- 5) What we do must last; it must be sustainable and make a difference for many years and/or to many people.

What I experienced with Tom is that same philosophy in the work that Faith in Action does daily in Haiti. This mission IS making a difference in the lives of many people and it will continue to do so for a long time. I am very pleased that I was a part of something that works and that the Haitian people can turn to for a better life. The things that Faith in Action is accomplishing with the help of people like you, is truly a gift from God and can be seen in the people that Tom is working with. The things that Faith in Action is currently doing and that Tom is envisioning for the future, is making a difference in the lives that I was able to see first-hand.

I am very excited for my next opportunity to serve with Tom and the many wonderful Haitian people that work with Tom. And I want you to know that it is only with your prayers and support that these things are possible. Please know that you are making a difference in the lives of others through this ministry.

Now go live for Christ – He died for you! Pastor Mike Ramsey

